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Inter-Arab Affairs

Committee on Lebanon Contacts Arab Capitals

JN3008170689 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 29 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the Arab tripartite committee, which was formed by the Casablanca summit to deal with the Lebanese crisis, is currently holding consultations with a number of Arab capitals on several proposals related to Lebanese national reconciliation. These proposals are particularly related to Lebanon's identity and political system and the powers of the president of the Republic, the prime minister, and ministers.

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that among the proposals under discussion are the restructuring of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies so that it will consist of 128 members equally divided between Muslims and Christians; and the abolition of political sectarianism in public jobs, the judiciary, and the military and security institutions—with the exception of top management jobs or their equivalent in joint public organs and institutions, where posts will continue to be shared equally between Muslims and Christians. The proposals also include dividing Lebanon into new electoral districts on a mixed basis between Muslims and Christians after canceling the present division, in addition to other proposals dealing with the means to spread the Lebanese state's authority over all the Lebanese soil.

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that, depending on the results of these contacts, the committee will decide whether it will resume its activity shortly.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat States PLO Position on Lebanon to Soviets

JN3008171089 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Brother 'Azzam al-Ahmad, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Baghdad, has announced that a Soviet envoy met with brother president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in Baghdad last night and discussed with him the deteriorating situation in Lebanon. In a statement to REUTER today, brother 'Azzam al-Ahmad said that the meeting was held before the Soviet assistant foreign minister left Baghdad for Moscow. He added that the Soviet assistant foreign minister briefed brother president Abu-'Ammar on Soviet ideas with regard to the Lebanese crisis and the cessation of arms shipments to Lebanon.

Brother 'Azzam al-Ahmad said that brother president Abu-'Ammar reiterated the PLO's position calling for forming an Arab force to implement and supervise the cease-fire in Lebanon.

Cited on Arab Peacekeeping Force

JN3008201089 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1827 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has affirmed that there will be no peace in Lebanon without an Arab peace force that imposes an Arab peace and a cease-fire, and makes it possible to elect a president and form a government to maintain the unity, sovereignty, territory, and stability of Lebanon—both land and people.

In an interview with the Lebanese magazine AL-USBU' AL-'ARABI, brother leader Abu-'Ammar said: We reject the crimes being carried out against the Lebanese and reject the killing of children, women, and old men in Lebanon by the crazy, indiscriminate shelling.

Abu-'Ammar added that the expulsion of Palestinian families from the mountain area [in Lebanon] is a part of the plot to establish sectarian cantons in Lebanon and to expel about a half million Palestinians.

PLO Reportedly Received 3 Messages From Rabin

JN3008183489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Controversy over dialogue between the PLO and the Israeli Government was raised anew at the opening session of the sixth UN conference of the nongovernmental organizations on the Palestine question in Vienna today.

At a news conference held on the occasion, PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had sent three messages to the PLO during the last 6 months. He added that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir himself worked for holding contacts with the PLO although Israeli officials publicly declared their rejection of any contacts or negotiations with the PLO. The Palestinian official said this double-faced policy is not serious. He called on the Israeli Government to be brave enough to admit publicly these indirect contacts.

In a message addressed to the conference, read at the opening session, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat criticized Washington's support for Yitzhaq Shamir's plan for elections in the occupied territories. He said the policy adopted by Washington does not help promote the peace process in a tangible manner. Nevertheless, 'Arafat emphasized the need to continue the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue taking place in Tunis. He called on all nongovernmental forces to redouble their efforts, side by side with those of world governments and bodies, in order to bring pressure to bear on the U.S. Government so that it would in turn pressure Israeli officials.

PFLP, DFLP Say U.S. Dialogue 'Deadlocked'

PM3008132389 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Aug 89 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Two Palestinian Fronts Believe U.S.-Palestinian Dialogue Deadlocked"]

[Text] Damascus—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] yesterday agreed that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue has reached a deadlock because of the U.S. negotiators' complete partiality toward Israel and opposition to Palestinian rights.

The magazine AL-HADAF, mouthpiece of the PFLP, says that it is now clear that the U.S. Administration is determined to keep the Israeli prime minister's election plan at the focus of the political discussions in pursuit of suspect aims, hence the negative results of the dialogue. That, it adds, has prompted the Palestinian leadership to stop the meetings between Palestinian figures from the occupied territory and Israeli officials, end its defensive stance, and go on the offensive and launch a major media campaign to expose U.S. policy.

The magazine AL-HURRIYAH, mouthpiece of the DFLP, says that the fourth round ended with an acknowledgment of the gap between the two sides.

It concludes: And so the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue is at an impasse because the U.S. position in the fourth round seemed intransigent and smacked of blackmail. The U.S. denial of the Palestinian people's rights is to blame for the lack of any serious progress in the dialogue.

Egypt

PLO's 'Arafat Continues Visit, Holds Talks

Meets With Mubarak

NC3008114489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat at the presidential headquarters at noon today.

Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo earlier today and was received at the airport by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Mubarak, 'Arafat News Conference

NC3008145889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Press conference with President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat by unidentified correspondents in Cairo on 30 August—recorded]

[Text] ['Arafat] I was pleased to meet with his excellency the president this morning and brief him on the current developments on the Palestinian issue, particularly with respect to the intifadah [uprising] of our people in the occupied territories, the Israeli Army's continuing crimes against our children, women, and masses, and the failed attempts by the occupation authorities and Israeli armed settlers to end the intifadah. We also reviewed international political developments, including the recent U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. I briefed his excellency the president on this dialogue, which we believe fell short of the desired goal, due to the U.S. Government's insistence on adopting the Shamir plan.

[Correspondent] Is there anything new regarding the election plan? Do you intend to take part in the forthcoming meetings of the UN General Assembly?

['Arafat] Regarding the UN General Assembly session, so far it is not on my schedule. As for the elections, it is true that Egypt has presented several points, but as far as I know it has not received an answer from the Israelis to its 10-point query. Of course, his excellency the president is in a better position to answer this question.

[Mubarak] The Palestinian issue was at the center of our discussion today, because it is the heart of the problem in the region and the key to resolving the Lebanese and other problems.

Regarding the tripartite committee on Lebanon, His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan, during his recent visit to Egypt, briefed me on the message he had received from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria on the tripartite committee. We have been encouraging the committee to resume its work and had hoped that President Hafiz al-Asad would cooperate in facilitating the work of the committee so that the Lebanese people and government can enjoy sovereignty over their territory. This can only be achieved by the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon, and by foreign troops I mean all non-Lebanese troops: the Syrians, the Iranians, and the Israelis. In order for Lebanon to exercise sovereignty over its territory, these troops must withdraw.

However, I was surprised by the change in position the day after I met with the king. I cannot elaborate on what the change means because I do not have all the details. However, it was astonishing. Anyway, should the tripartite committee resume the dialogue with the Lebanese parties and the brothers in Syria, it will have until the end of the year—until December. After that, it will have to report on the results of this dialogue and of the efforts by His Majesty King Hassan II Morocco, His Majesty King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, and brother President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria to an ordinary or extraordinary Arab summit. As I have said before, this matter must be adopted by the Arab nation because, after all, Lebanon is an Arab country and we must not leave our Arab problems to any foreign power to solve. It is a shame not to be able to solve a problem like that of Lebanon, which could affect all the Arab countries in the region.

['Arafat] If I may add something. Should the Arab nation fail to resolve the Lebanese crisis, it will be a disaster because the crisis will be internationalized, and consequently, Lebanon will be partitioned into small cantons under the terms of the conspiracy jointly concocted by Israel and some Arab parties. The Arab world is facing a historic challenge on this issue.

[Correspondent] The Soviet Union is the latest foreign party to intervene in the Lebanese issue. Do you think such intervention will promote a resolution of the Lebanese crisis or can it only be resolved by the Arabs?

[Mubarak] If by Soviet intervention, you mean the kind with troops and all the rest, I have not heard about anything like that.

[Correspondent] No, I mean consultation and mediation.

[Mubarak] The United States, the Soviet Union, the European countries, France, and the African countries are involved in the consultation and mediation. However, Lebanon is an Arab country and so ultimately it is the Arab League, which tackled this issue in depth at its latest summit in Casablanca, that must state its position and take the necessary measures so that the Lebanese may retain their sovereignty.

'Arafat Departs Cairo 31 Aug

NC3108072989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo early today after spending one day in Egypt.

President Mubarak had received the Palestinian president during the visit and held talks with him on current developments related to the Palestinian issue and the Lebanese problem, in addition to a number of other issues.

The Palestinian leader was seen off by PLO representative in Cairo Sa'id Kamal, Fatah representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah, and Ambassador Sami Thabit, head of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department.

Official Talks With Kuwait End; Amir Departs

Talks Stress Palestine, Lebanon

LD3008111789 Kuwait KUNA in English 0836 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, Aug 30 (KUNA)—His higness [H.H.] the amir of Kuwait leaves Cairo Wednesday, ending a three-day official visit during which he conferred with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak chiefly on Mideast politics and ways to strengthen cooperation between Cairo and Kuwait.

The Egyptian-Kuwaiti summit talks were held Tuesday at the al-Qubbah presidential palace in Cairo.

The two leaders discussed a wide range of political issues, with special emphasis on the Palestinian question and Lebanon it was officially announced.

They reviewed efforts to consolidate peace in the Gulf region and to heal inter-Arab rifts.

The talks also touched on Third World problems as H.H. the amir is current chairman of the Organization of Islamic Conference and the Egyptian president is now chairing the Organization of African Unity.

On Tuesday, his highness the amir inaugurated the International Educational Center in the northeastern city of Ismailia.

He and his host reviewed the 30-million dollar center which was financed by the Kuwaiti fund-raising popular committee.

The visit of his highness the amir to Egypt produced cultural and economic agreements and the launching of a land route between the two countries.

Final Talks; Amir Departs

LD3008111889 Kuwait KUNA in English 0931 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, Aug 30 (KUNA)—His highness [H.H.] the amir of Kuwait left Cairo Wednesday ending a three-day official visit, his first to Egypt as head of state.

Earlier this morning, H.H. the amir and his host Egyptian President Husni Mubarak held a round of talks at the al-Qubbah presidential palace, state run-radio Cairo reported without elaboration.

H.H. the amir was accorded an official farewell ceremony at the palace with the Egyptian president and his government ministers attending. Also present were Egyptian parliament speaker, deputies and ambassadors of Arab and Islamic countries.

Statement Issued on Visit

LD3008143689 Kuwait KUNA in English 1217 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, Aug 30 (KUNA)—Kuwait and Egypt have reiterated their support to the constructive and objective Palestinian peace strategy under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Kuwaiti-Egyptian gesture was made following a three-day visit to Cairo by H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah.

A statement issued here today at the end of the visit, said the two sides had expressed willingness to continue their support to the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

Condemning inhuman practices exercised by Israeli authorities against the Palestinians in occupied Arab land, the two sides appealed to peace-loving forces to exert efforts in a bid to persuade Israel to desist from those practices which contradict international norms and constitute a blatant violation of the international law.

The statement said special concern was given to the Lebanese crisis, urging all parties to the conflict to stop escalating military confrontation and adhere to the principle of the peaceful settlement that will take into consideration the interests of all parties.

In this connection, the two sides hailed the efforts exerted by the Arab League Committee on Lebanon and appealed to all parties to cooperate with the committee to enable it reach a settlement.

The two sides expressed their relief over cessation of the Iraq-Iran war and expressed hope that current truce would turn genuine peace on solid basis to ensure restoration of security and stability to the region and to enable Iraq and Iraq to consecrate their efforts for reconstruction.

To (?effect), the two sides voiced their support to the efforts of the UN secretary general aimed at implementing the Security Council Resolution 598.

The statement said the two sides held comprehensive talks in the context of the strong relations between the two sisterly countries and in the framework of their adherence to joint Arab work and to back up the principle of settling difference through peaceful means, indicating viewpoints of the two countries were identical in various fields.

It added President Mubarak had expressed his country's keenness on the security and stability of the Arab Gulf as part of the Arab national security.

It said President Mubarak highly appreciated the efforts exerted by the amir of Kuwait in his capacity as chairman of the Organization of Islamic Countries and his efforts to boost Afro-Arab cooperation.

For his part, H.H. the amir expressed his confidence that election of President Mubarak as chairman of the Organization of African Unity would strengthen Afro-Arab cooperation and assist in overcoming difficulties facing the struggling African peoples.

The two leaders exchanged views on the question of developing countries' foreign debts and reviewed the amir's initiative in this regard before the UN General Assembly, stressing the need to reach a collective settlement acceptable to all.

The statement said the two sides expressed hope that the upcoming summit conference of the Nonaligned Movement would take a step forward toward upgrading its methods in handling important issues and to cope with the developments in the international arena.

On the sphere of bilateral relations, the two countries noted with relief the positive trend of cooperation process between them and agreed to take necessary measures to further strengthen it.

The statement said the two sides expressed their satisfaction at the progress of work at projects in Egypt being financed by the Kuwait fund for Arab economic development and agreed to discuss the possibility of its contribution to more development projects.

[Words indistinct] H.H. the amir expressed his pleasure and pride over his visit to Egupt and thanked the Egyptian people and government for the warm reception accorded to him.

The statement said H.H. the amir extended an invitation to President Mubarak to visit Kuwait which he accepted to pay as soon as possible.

Further on Statement

NC3008203889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—[Passage omitted] Egypt and Kuwait issued a press statement today at the conclusion of the visit to Egypt by His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, amir of Kuwait. The following is the text of the statement:

Within the framework of the deep-rooted relations between the State of Kuwait and the Arab Republic of Egypt and in expression of the fraternal ties linking the Kuwaiti and Egyptian peoples, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwit, paid an official visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt from 28 to 30 August at the invitation of his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

During his visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt, his highness the amir of Kuwait was accorded a warm official and popular reception that reflected the historic ties between the two sisterly countries and peoples and was a sincere expression of the respect and appreciation that the president, government, and people of the Arab Republic of Egypt harbor toward the amir, government, and people of the brotherly State of Kuwait.

On the occasion of this historic visit, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak awarded the Great Sash of the Nile to His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, who awarded the Great Sash of Mubarak [wishah Mubarak al-'azim] to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

The comprehensive talks between his highness the amir of Kuwait and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak were the result of the excellent relations between the two fraternal states, their concern for joint Arab action, and their desire to resolve problems by peaceful means. The talks showed that the Kuwaiti and Egyptian views are identical in all fields.

The two sides expressed their continuing support for the heroic intifadah [uprising] of the struggling Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories. They once again underlined their support for the constructive and objective peace strategy pursued by the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people both inside and outside the occupied territories, to preserve the Palestinians' legitimate right to self-determination.

The two sides also denounced the inhumane practices undertaken by the Israeli troops and authorities in the occupied Arab territories. Thy appealed to all peace-loving countries to work to make Israel abandon such practices, which run counter to international charters and are in blatant violation of international law.

The Lebanese crisis received special attention from the two sides, who appeal to all parties concerned not to escalate the military confrontation and to seek a peaceful settlement that would balance the interests of all Lebanese parties. In this respect, the two sides paid tribute to the tripartite committee [words indistinct] and hoped the committee would meet with constructive and sincere cooperation from all parties concerned so it can reach a settlement for the Lebanese crisis.

The two sides expressed satisfaction at the halting of the Gulf war and hoped the current truce will turn into a genuine peace based on firm grounds that would restore peace and security to the region and enable both Iraq and Iran to devote their efforts to reconstruction and development. The two sides reiterated their support for the UN secretary general's efforts to implement Security Council Resolution 598. President Muhammad Husni

Mubarak stressed Egypt's concern over security and stability in the Arabian Gulf as an integral part of pan-Arab security.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak expressed his deep appreciation for the efforts exerted by his highness the amir of Kuwait, in his capacity as chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization, to promote solidarity among the Islamic states, as well as his highness' efforts in promoting Arab-African cooperation. President Mubarak praised the positive results of the 10th session of the Permanent Committee for Arab-African Cooperation, which convened in June in Kuwait.

His highness the amir of Kuwait expressed his confidence that the election of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak as OAU chairman willl further promote Arab-African cooperation and contribute to overcoming several of the problems facing the struggling African peoples.

The two Arab leaders exchanged views on the problem of the developing countries' debts and reviewed the initiative of His Highness Amir Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah before the UN General Assembly as well as the four-country initiative proposed by President Mubarak and three other leaders. The two sides expressed their full conviction of the need to reach a collective solution on which all creditor and debtor countries would agree and which would promote world peace and stability.

The two countries hoped the forthcoming nonaligned meeting in Belgrade will make considerable progress toward developing the movement's work style and methods of tackling the important issues and topics on its agenda and that the Nonaligned Movement would gain further momentum, bringing it in line with the developments and changes in international relations.

The two sides noted with satisfaction the positive and steady progress in the various fields of bilateral cooperation. The two sides reviewed in detail all aspects of bilateral cooperation in the economic, trade, investment, cultural, information, labor, youth, and other important fields and agreed to take the necessary measures to promote and expand this cooperation to serve the interests of the two fraternal countries and peoples.

The two fraternal countries signed the following agreements:

1. The executive program of the 1989-91 cultural agreement.
2. The trade exchange agreement.
3. The loan agreement pertaining to the financing of iron rolling for the production of steel sheets in Egypt as an expression of both sides' desire to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

The two sides reviewed the projects being implemented by the Kuwaiti fund for Arab economic development, particularly those which began being financed this year. Among these projects are the protection of the Rosetta coast from erosion and setting up factories to manufacture polyester thread and process beetroots. The Kuwaiti side expressed its interest in beginning construction of tourist villages in al-Ghardaqah on the Red Sea in addition to the implementation of some investment projects currently under study in the fields of tourism, industry, agricultural development, land reform, and food security.

The two sides agreed to discuss the Kuwaiti fund's possible participation in other development projects in Egypt, either individually or through joint financing with other development institutions.

His highness the amir expressed his happiness and pride in visiting Egypt and in the signs of progress and advancement which he witnessed and the sincere efforts which are being exerted to push forward the wheel of development and construction. He also expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the warm reception accorded him and the demonstration of sincere feelings of amity and love, which express Egypt's nobility and the bonds of religion, blood, language, and fraternity between the two countries.

His highness the amir of Kuwait invited his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to visit Kuwait. His excellency accepted the invitation with pleasure and promised to make the visit as soon as possible.

Ghali Leaves for Belgrade Nonaligned Meeting

NC3008181689 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo for Belgrade this evening to attend the meeting of the nonaligned foreign ministers, which will open on Friday, to prepare for the ninth summit of the nonaligned countries scheduled to begin on Monday.

In a predeparture statement, Dr Ghali said the Egyptian delegation will hold contacts with several delegations at the conference to discuss the various topics on the conference's agenda. The delegation will also hold talks with the delegations of Senegal, Venezuela, and India to follow up the initiative proposed by President Mubarak, the Senegalese and Venezuelan presidents, and the Indian prime minister to establish a North-South dialogue. The Egyptian delegation will also meet with the Mauritanian and Senegalese delegations as part of the ongoing efforts to settle the dispute between the two countries.

Foreign Ministry's Al-Baz Leaves for Belgrade

NC3008212089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, left Cairo for Belgrade tonight to attend the meetings of the ministerial council of the Nonaligned Movement.

Symposium on African Debts Issues Recommendations

NC3008194589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—The international symposium on African debt has recommended the formation of a high-level working group to assist the liaison group in preparing for an international conference on Africa's foreign debt.

The symposium urged increased support for the efforts of the OAU liaison group on African debt. The symposium also called for closer cooperation and solidarity among African countries, as well as for coordination among debtor nations vis-a-vis the debt crisis. The symposium suggested that there is a political dimension to Africa's foreign debt crisis which should be included in any analysis of that crisis. It also called for measures to be taken to improve the management of African economies.

Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and OAU Secretary General Ide Oumarou attended the symposium's final session.

The symposium recommended the creation of an African data bank and urged research into ways to reduce some of Africa's debts. It called on African countries to use their political influence with creditor nations and employ consultants to probe every possible means of reducing the debt burden.

The symposium recommended serious preparations for the holding of an international conference on debt. A review of old debts, the symposium suggested, could help identify strong negotiating cards, pinpoint loans that did not contribute to development, and determine the portion of the total debt that is due to the accumulation of interest.

The symposium urged the formation of a small expert group to prepare a well-organized set of documents for the conference. It also urged African nations to contact EC nations to seek ways of resolving the debt problem. During negotiations, the symposium recommended, it is useful to differentiate between the rescheduling of government and private loans.

The symposium decided that African countries have to continue individual negotiations with the Paris Club, while continuing to examine the possibility of collective talks with the club.

The symposium stated that it is impossible for Third World countries to pay off their debts, a matter which could pose a danger to the world economy. Although Africa's total debt is smaller than that of Latin America, the symposium stated, certain factors have to be taken into account, such as drought and other natural disasters and the smallness of the export sector.

The symposium expressed the belief that military loans constitute political measures undertaken among friendly nations, and therefore should be abolished.

The symposium recommended that trade debts be subjected to U.S. Treasury Secretary Brady's plan which is an improvement on the plan put forward by current U.S. Secretary of State Baker. The symposium also called for an international meeting to discuss the principles and conditions which should be observed by the creditor countries.

British Airways Plane Bomb Threat 'Hoax'

NC3008134989 Cairo MENA in English 1238 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, Aug 30 (MENA)—The British Airways plane took off from Cairo airport. Authorities had received a call on a bomb aboard the British plane that proved to be a hoax.

Libya

Accord With Chad on Aouzou Reportedly Signed

NC3108105689 Paris AFP in English 0956 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Algiers, Aug 31 (AFP)—Chad and Libya Thursday [31 August] signed an outline agreement for settling their territorial differences over the Aouzou strip, it was announced here.

In Paris informed sources said the agreement calls for a political settlement to be negotiated within a year, failing which the issue will be referred to the International Court of Justice at The Hague for a ruling.

It was signed by the countries' Foreign Ministers Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi of Libya and Acheikh Ibn-Oumar of Chad, and witnessed by Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh, Algeria's official APS news agency said.

Both countries claim sovereignty over the 114,000 square kilometer (43,800 sq miles) mineral-rich strip along the Libyan-Chad border which Libyan troops currently occupy.

Chadian troops ousted Libyans from northern Chad in 1987.

Further on 'Settlement'

LD3108103789 Paris Domestic Service in French 1000 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] It is the end of a very long conflict in Africa. Chad and Libya have just signed an agreement in Algiers on the territorial dispute over the Aouzou strip. The two countries have been laying claims to this border zone measuring 110,000 square km, presently occupied by Libyan troops. The framework agreement on the peaceful settlement of the border dispute was signed in

Algiers this morning by the foreign ministers of Chad and Libya in the presence of the Algerian foreign minister. Chad and Libya have been engaged in a long-lasting military confrontation over this desert zone with nomads being the only people living there.

Information Minister Comments on Ties With Egypt

NC3008081989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1446 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Tunis, 29 Aug (MENA)—Rajab Abu-Dabbus, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture, affirmed that relations between the Libyan and Egyptian peoples have never been severed. He said that they constitute one people and that their relations cannot be affected by differences among the leaders. He declared: "We harbor great love and appreciation for Egypt, and no one can deny Egypt's important stature and great merit."

In an exclusive interview with MENA, Dr Abu-Dabbus remarked that what is important is the meeting between the Egyptian and Libyan peoples and noted that the border is now open for citizens of both countries to travel freely. He said that Egyptian merchandise is found in all Libyan markets, and Libyan citizens who visit Egypt are warmly welcomed.

The Libyan information secretary said that he cannot give a definite date for diplomatic relations between the two countries to be restored or for a meeting between their leaders, Mubarak and Al-Qadhdhafi.

He hoped that the brothers in Egypt, notably President Husni Mubarak, will participate in the Libyan people's celebration of the 1 September revolution anniversary.

Dr Abu-Dabbus said there are numerous job opportunities in Libya for Egyptian workers because many Libyan projects were not started for Libyans only but have a pan-Arab aspect, such as the man-made river. He pointed out that foreign workers will be laid off in the future to give Arab workers the opportunity to take their place. He remarked, however, that this might take time. He noted that the massive and sudden movement of Egyptian workers to Libya after the border between the two countries was opened has produced some problems regarding housing and availability of jobs. He added that these problems have been gradually resolved.

Dr Abu-Dabbus declared that he had met with Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif during the meetings of the Arab information ministers in Tunis. He said that they had discussed media relations between the two countries and noted that there are good prospects for seeking Egyptian expertise to solve technological problems in the media sphere, particularly as Libya has plans to strengthen its radio transmission.

Dr Abu-Dabbus said that Arab regional groupings represent a step toward the basic goal of Arab unity.

He added that there is a possibility that the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] might hold a meeting in Libya during the celebrations marking the 1 September revolution anniversary. He said such a meeting would help the progress of the union. He denied that this union is moving slowly and said that the committees which had been created to formulate the statutes of UMA's institutions are working continuously. He pointed out that the steps toward unity are being slowly and carefully implemented in order to guarantee success and because speed might produce immature results.

Regarding the prospect of Libya's joining the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], Dr Abu-Dabbus said that Libya could serve as a link between the ACC and UMA. He said that it is seeking to bring Arab groups closer together to attain the ultimate goal of Arab unity.

Dr Abu-Dabbus stressed the need to make the Arab League effective so that it can carry out its role to achieve inter-Arab coordination.

Foreign Guests Arrive for Al-Fatih Anniversary

LD3008205989

[Editorial report] Tripoli JANA in English at 1656 GMT on 30 March carries the first of a series of Tripoli-datelined reports on the arrival of foreign delegations to take part in celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of the great al-Fatih revolution. Most of the reports devote approximately 200 words to the arrival of each official, including remarks made by the visitor to JANA.

As of filing time, JANA English has reported the arrival of the following: Mamadou Sini, "secretary of the Political Bureau for National Orientation in Niger," and an accompanying delegation; Mohamed Messaoudi, secretary general for Arab Maghreb affairs in Algeria; Guenther Maleuda, chairman of the Democratic Peasant's Party of Germany and deputy chairman of the GDR Council of State, and an accompanying delegation; Grisha Filipov, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo, and an accompanying delegation.

JANA quotes Filipov as saying on his arrival: "We consider this celebration a joint occasion for the two friendly peoples and we observe in Bulgaria the cohesion and unity of the Libyan Arab people with its leader... And the accomplishments realised show the whole world the ability and resources of the Libyan Arab people. We wish, on this occasion, success to the decisions taken by the people's congresses which open the door and perpective before the Libyan Arab people's future."

Additional arrivals reported by JANA are: Shaykh Rafiq Ahmad, secretary general of the Communist Party of Pakistan, and an accompanying delegation; (Sinaha Syed), "member of the central committee of the ruling party in Bangladesh," and an accompanying delegation; President Hassan Gouled Aptidon of Djibouti, who was

met by a "big popular and official welcoming ceremony." President Siad Barre of the Republic of Somalia, who was greeted by a "grand and popular official welcome"..."headed by the leader of the revolution; Ja'far Ali Khan, Pakistan's minister for railways, and an accompanying delegation. Chen Minzhang, PRC minister of public health, and an accompanying delegation. In a statement to JANA, the PRC minister "expressed his great pleasure and that of his delegation to be taking part in the celebration of the great al-Fatih revolution.

"He said: 'China supports the struggle being waged by the Libyan Arab people against imperialist and racist forces.' He lauded the depth of ties between Great Jamahiriyah and China.

"He lauded the colossal transformations carried out by the Libyan Arab people in various civili ed fields throughout the last 20 years."

The following additional arrivals are reported: Fayid Haydar and Ahmad Mari, from the Nasirite Popular Organization; Ahmad al-Katib and Jihad al-Katib, from the Arab Army of Lebanon; (Ma'an Bashura) and (Shawqat Tannay), from the "Congregation of People's Committees and Leagues"; Adnan Sultani, from the Nasirite Organization-Socialist Union; Faysal al-Da'ud, from the Arab Struggle Movement; Dr Husayn al-Tawaqi, director general of IFTAA [expansion unknown]; Dr Muhammad al-Majdub, dean of the Law College at Lebanon University; (Antoine Gherb), (Mufiad al-Nathar), and (Ahmad Taqi) from the "Socialist National Party of Syria." (Yusuf) and (Fatma Mihaidli), "the parents of martyr (Sanaa Mihaidli);" Moulay Driss Alaoui, secretary of state for Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] affairs in Morocco; Muhammad al-Saqqat, secretary general of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA]; (Dante Orsti Orsinigo), member of the Italian Parliament and of the Christian Democratic Party.

Tripoli Television Service in Arabic at 1930 GMT on 30 August reports the arrival of Maltese Prime Minister Eddie Fenech Adami.

Talks With ROK Construction Minister Begin

LD3008192689 Tripoli JANA in English 1817 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation met this morning Kwon Yong-kak, the minister of construction in South Korea.

During the meeting which was attended by the ambassador of South Korea to Great Jamahiriyah, the minister conveyed the greetings of the Korean people and its president to the Libyan Arab people and the leader of its revolution on the 20th anniversary of the great al-Fatah Revolution expressing South Korea's appreciation and pride in the firm stances of principles of the al-Fatah revolution.

Kwon Yong-kak told the secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of the apology sent by the Korean president for not responding to the invitation from the General People's Congress to personally attend and take part in the celebrations a marking such a glorious occasion due to official engagements and his assignment to represent South Korea in this festival.

Sudan

Numayri Proposes Moving Venue of Peace Talks

JN2908162889 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 28 Aug 89 pp 1, 12

[Excerpt] Former Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has broken the silence he has maintained since the 30 June coup which overthrew Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's government. He has put forth proposals on the framework of negotiations on peace in southern Sudan.

In a statement obtained by AL-SIYASAH, Numayri has proposed that peace negotiations between the Sudanese Revolution Command Council and the Sudanese Popular Liberation Movement be moved to Cairo from Addis Ababa to be held under the supervision of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in his capacity as chairman of the OAU. He also proposed that representatives of the Sudanese people's sectors be included in addition to the military negotiators. He also proposed forming a committee of supervision from seven African countries including Egypt to supervise the negotiations. [passage omitted]

Somalia's Siad Visits Khartoum En Route to Libya

LA3008184289 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] The Somali president, Mohamed Siad Barre, arrive at the Khartoum airport today on his way to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to participate in the 1 September celebrations. His excellency was received at the airport by deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] Brigadier General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, and members of the Council, Brigadier al-Tijani Ahmad al-Tahir and Brigadier Ibrahim Nayil.

Brig Gen al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih said he discussed with the Somali president bilateral relations and ways of strengthening and developing them. Also discussed were questions of common interest, particularly the issue of peace in the Horn of Africa. The deputy chairman of the RCC added that he briefed the Somali president on the aims and principles of the national salvation revolution and the situation in Sudan.

Information Minister on Garang, Democracy, Press

NC2608175889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Tunis, 26 Aug (MENA)—Sudanese Information Minister 'Ali Shammu has affirmed that Egyptian-Sudanese relations are unique and free from the constraints of convention and protocol.

He described the relationship between President Husni Mubarak and Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC], as profound, close, and friendly and said that it has overcome any barriers of formality.

In a statement to the MENA correspondent in Tunis, where he attended a meeting of Arab information ministers, the Sudanese information minister noted that President Mubarak shows great concern for Sudan's problems and that he spent most of his time during the OAU summit in Addis Ababa holding meetings and consultations designed to resolve the crisis in southern Sudan. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the meeting between the Sudanese delegation and John Garang's movement, 'Ali Shammu said it had been positive and encouraging and was characterized by frankness and friendliness. He said it had been agreed to pursue the dialogue and find channels that will facilitate contacts between the two sides at any time.

On a possible meeting between Lt Gen al-Bashir and John Garang, he said that holding such a meeting now would be premature; it depends on the steps taken during the meetings between the two delegations.

The Sudanese minister denied that Garang had stipulated that the RCC should step down and a democratic system and political parties be restored as a condition for establishing peace in the south. He remarked that it is not logical for Garang to set such conditions if he desires to resolve the crisis.

Shammu asserted that the southern issue is not a purely Sudanese problem as many Arabs think, but an Arab issue that arises from Sudan's Arab affiliation. He said that the crisis would have ended had Sudan abandoned its Arabism and its Arab League membership.

'Ali Shammu commented on the Sudanese domestic situation and said that the Sudanese leadership is currently seeking to provide democracy for the Sudanese people, to give them the freedom to express themselves and the right to participate in all issues and to choose their rulers. He noted that the revolution seeks the restoration of democracy but not the return of the political parties because Sudan's experience of political parties has not been favorable and the parties promoted sectarian, racial, or religious interests.

The Sudanese information minister said that a political committee formed by the RCC to explore the views of politicians on the future political system is currently operating. [passage omitted]

Shammu pointed out that two newspapers are currently published in Sudan. They are AL-INQADH and AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH. He said that the government has provided them with an infrastructure but neither the government nor the information minister has direct control over them. He added that the Sudanese revolution banned newspapers when it came to power because the press had been part of the former corrupt political system and many newspapers had not adhered to responsible professional and moral standards and most of them were owned by the political parties.

Shammu called on the newspapers that will reappear after a new law is approved to monitor the authorities, provide the citizens with facts, and avoid distortion. [passage omitted]

New 'Political' Daily Appears 30 Aug

NC3008195789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Aug (MENA)—The first political daily to be published since Sudanese newspapers and publications were closed in the wake of the overthrow of the Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi government on 30 June appeared in Khartoum today.

The AL-SUDANI AL-HADITH [MODERN SUDANESE] newspaper is supervised by the Sudanese Ministry of Culuture and Information.

AL-QUWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH, organ of the Sudanese Armed Forces, was the only newspaper not covered by the decision to shut down the newspapers.

First U.S. Wheat Consignment Arrives 29 Aug

EA3008134189 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] The ship, (Shepnothel), arrived in Port Sudan harbor today carrying 77,706 tonnes of American wheat sold to Sudan this year. The American Center in Khartoum explained in a news bulletin that this consignment was worth $12 million and that it was the first of several consignments, which will total 98,706 tonnes of wheat and 26,222 tonnes of wheat flour. The value of the wheat and flour is estimated at $30 million.

Bahrain

Iraqi Finance Minister Arrives for Talks 30 Aug

JN3008195089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 30 Aug (WAKH)—Iraqi Finance Minister Hikmat 'Umar Mukhaylif arrived in Manama this evening to head the Iraqi delegation to meetings of the joint Iraqi-Bahraini committee which start tomorrow. [passage omitted]

PDRY

Politburo Member, PLO Envoy Discuss Ties

EA3008134689 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1820 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Brother Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, met in his office this morning brother 'Abbas Zaki, member of the Central Committee of the Fatah Movement and director general of the Department of Pan-Arab and International Relations in the PLO.

Developments in the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories and the latest political developments in the Palestinian arena, in general, and at the Arab and international levels, were reviewed during the meeting. The meeting also discussed bilateral relations between the Yemeni Socialist Party and PLO and ways of strengthening and developing them.

In the meeting, brother Muhsin confirmed Democratic Yemen's continuing support for the valiant uprising of our Palestinian Arab people, led by the PLO—their legitimate and sole representative—to restore their legitimate national rights. He emphasized the necessity of providing the requisites for the continuation of the uprising and of its steadfastness until it achieved its aims. In this connection, he pointed out the importance and necessity of effective Arab support for the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

For his part, brother 'Abbas Zaki gave a report on the results of the fifth congress of the Fatah Movement. He expressed his deep appreciation of the role being played by Democratic Yemen and the Yemeni Socialist party in supporting the Palestinian Revolution.

The meeting was attended by brother Muhammad Abu-Shanab, charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the state of Palestinine in Aden.

Saudi Arabia

Jordan's Al-Qasim Arrives in Jeddah 30 Aug

LD3008134489 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Jeddah, 30 August (SPA)—His Excellency Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of Jordan, arrived in Jeddah this afternoon. He was welcomed upon arrival at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; Nazzar Ubayd Madani, director of the West Region Section at the Foreign Ministry; and 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Nuwwaysir, Foreign Ministry head of protocol; as well as the Jordanian consul in Jeddah.

Delivers Message to King Fahd

LD3008201789 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1911 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Jeddah, 30 Aug (SPA)—King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, received Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim in his office this evening.

Marwan al-Qasim delivered a message from His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal, the king of the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan to the custodian of the two holy mosques.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Pakistani Minister Delivers Bhutto Message

LD3008221689 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2147 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Jeddah, 30 Aug (SPA)—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Sa'ud, may God safeguard him, received in his office at the al-Salam Palace this evening His Excellency Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan who conveyed to the king greetings from his excellency the president of Pakistan and a message from the Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, and the ambassador of Pakistan to the Kingdom.

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Speaks on Unity, Intifadah, Lebanon

JN2908165489 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, opened the first meeting of the second annual session of the Consultative Council this morning. At the beginning of the session, brother 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Arashi, speaker of the Consultative Council and member of the Standing Committee, welcomed the brother president, the members of the Consultative Council and the General Committee, and the prime minister and ministers. Then the brother president delivered a comprehensive speech in which he dealt with many issues pertaining to the work of the Consultative Council, the executive authorities, the work of the other

official bodies in the country at this new stage, the issue of the Yemeni unity, pan-Arab issues, and international developments. [passage omitted]

He said that we continue dialogue and understanding with our brothers in the southern part of the homeland [PDRY] in order to take positive steps toward unity, to speed up the establishment of the state of unity, to promote Yemen's role and position, and to renew its civilization. He pointed out that a number of practical ideas are being studied in the two parts of Yemen in order to take a new step towards unity—a step that will be unprecedented in terms of pan-Arab unity. He also said that we are serious in our efforts to achieve Yemen's unity through brotherly and democratic dialogue and peaceful means.

The brother president then addressed a number of current Arab issues, foremost among which are the Palestine question and the developments in the Arab arena. He stressed our country's principled position on the Palestine question as well as our full support for the sweeping popular intifadah [uprising]. He pointed out that our country is among the Arab countries that have stressed the need for the Arab tripartite committee to continue the mission entrusted to it by the Arab summit conference. He also expressed optimism that the committee will succeed in ending the crisis of the Lebanese people if all countries cooperate with the committee and if intentions are sincere.

The brother leader also said that our country will witness a number of important national and pan-Arab occasions and that as preparations are under way to celebrate the 27th anniversary of the immortal 26 September revolution, Sanaa will host a meeting of the higher body of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], represented by the leaders of the four founding states. He also noted the role of the legislative authority in looking into all the agreements reached at the Alexandria summit conference—agreements which require the approval of the Consultative Council in accordance with the Constitution. He added that the Sanaa meeting will look into and approve a number of new agreements, stressing that the ACC is advancing toward the achievement of all its goals. [passage omitted]

Minister Cited on Inter-Yemen Unity Moves

PM3008140989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Aug 89 p 12

[Interview with Information Minister Hasan al-Lawzi by Ma'd Fayyad in Baghdad; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Ma'd] May we know the details of the agreement on cultural and informational cooperation among the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] states?

[Al-Lawzi] The meeting of ACC states' culture and information ministers was important and successful to a considerable degree. This is because the meeting was based on the informational and cultural cooperation relations that preceded the establishment of the ACC. So the meeting was confined to the ways of compiling harmonious ideas and formulating them into one framework to be used as binding and agreed rules in places of work, whether in informational institutions or cultural centers. [passage omitted]

[Ma'd] Let us move on from the agreement to another subject concerning relations between the two parts of Yemen. In your view, what stage has been reached in the negotiations concerning unity or coordination between the two parts of Yemen?

[Al-Lawzi] Obviously, the truth is that whatever binds the two parts of Yemen is the Yemeni revolution's major objective—that of achieving unity or restoring Yemeni unity. And the two parts are exerting further efforts to speed up unity, namely through the tasks assigned to the Yemeni unity committees formed over 18 years ago. Anyhow, we consider that unity action has made important achievements. [passage omitted]

There are no severe differences that would prevent the achievement of unity, so long as there are good intentions and sincerity, and so long as the efforts made and the successes achieved are exploited, especially after the endorsement of the united state's draft constitution and its referral to the Supreme Yemeni Council. So unity action has dominated the main high institutions which embody the united state concept and the relations of that state's institutions with the masses and the objectives for which that state and Yemeni revolutionary society work under unity. And nothing remains other than referring the united state's draft constitution to the two legislative authorities in the two parts, and then to the people so they can say their final word. Then the Yemenis will possess the main document on the basis of which the united Yemeni state will be established. [passage omitted]

[Ma'd] Do you believe that the presence of some politicians opposed to the South Yemen regime in your country could obstruct unity between the two parts?

[Al-Lawzi] That will not be an obstacle. This is because these are staying on their own territory. Besides, some politicians from the North are in the South. It is their country, whether in the North or the South. It is one territory, and every citizen has the right to live on any part of it if he wants to.

[Ma'd] How would you assess the status of relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Yemen Arab Republic today?

[Al-Lawzi] Yemeni-Saudi relations are good, special, and developing. They are organized, planned, and broadened by a Yemeni-Saudi coordination committee headed by Brother Prime Minister Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the permanent committee, and Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, defense and aviation minister and inspector general in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on Sudanese Leader's Visit

Al-Bashir Appreciates Aid

EA2908122489 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, 29 August—Official talks between Sudan and Iraq yesterday touched on bilateral relations and means of boosting them further, situations in Sudan and threats facing it in addition to the Arab situations and requirements of consolidating Arab solidarity.

The Iraqi side was headed by President Saddam Husayn, while the Sudanese side was headed by the chairman of the Revolution Command Council, General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir. The Iraqi Revolution Command Council member and first Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan, Deputy Premier and Foreign Affairs Minister Tariq 'Aziz, and the Iraqi ambassador to Khartoum represented Iraq during the discussions, and the Sudan side included the Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Ali Sahlul, State Defence Minister Maj [title and rank as received] 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan, under-secretary of the Ministry of Trade, Co-operation and Supply, in addition to Sudan's ambassador to Baghdad.

Gen al-Bashir affirmed his appreciation for Iraq aid to Sudan, its struggle in defending the eastern gate of the Arab homeland and success in repelling danger on the Arab nation. On the other hand, President Saddam carried out a supper meal on the honour of Al-Bashir and the accompanying delegation.

AL-THAWRAH Cited on Visit

JN2908102589 Baghdad INA in English 0918 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 29, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily for today has said that the visit of General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council to Iraq comes in this important stage as culmination of the advanced level of the relations between the two countries based on respect and joint understanding.

The Sudanese president started his visit to Iraq yesterday leading an official delegation.

The paper expected that General al-Bashir's visit to Iraq would lead to a new and advanced stage in the level of relations guaranteeing the two countries' and peoples' interests and safeguarding the Arab national security.

The paper clarified in a report published today that the Iraqi attention towards developing the relations with Sudan and strengthening them according to a national perspective had yielded its fruits and reflections on the Iraq-Iran war through popular volunteering of sons of the Sudanese country who had participated in the fighting to repulse the Iranian anti-Arab assault.

It said Iraq, in its turn, and despite the burdens of the battles contributed to support the Sudanese military capability in the confrontation with the separatist rebellion in southern Sudan.

The air-lifted Iraqi military supplies had big effect in the liberating the two towns of Kurmuk and Qaysan from the hands of the rebels, the matter which expressed the Iraqis' belief in the unity of the joint Arab destiny.

President Saddam Husayn had also gave directives for providing an airlift to carry medical, food and corporeal materials to help the floods and torrents-affected people in Khartoum and several other sudanese cities.

AL-THAWRAH daily has stressed the importance of national dealing on basis of mutual confidence without any intervention in the internal affairs of any of Arab countries or attempt for influencing political choices in every country.

Comments on Relations

JN3008192289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] in Sudan, has affirmed that Iraqi-Sudanese relations will witness great development and better cooperation in the coming stage.

In a news conference this afternoon attended by Arab and foreign news agency and radio correspondents and representatives of local newspapers and magazines, the Sudanese president said that his talks with President leader Saddam Husayn were positive and fruitful and added momentum to cooperation relations between the two fraternal countries.

He pointed out that Iraq had emerged victorious in two great battles: the building battle, the outlines of which the Iraqis have established in brave Basra and al-Faw, the city of sacrifice and gateway to great victory; and the military industrialization achievements which are a source of pride not only for the Iraqis, but all Arabs. The victories in these two battles are in addition to the clear victory won by the Iraqis in the arena of defense of Arab justice and sovereignty.

In the news conference, the Sudanese president affirmed that Sudan supports any Arab effort to unify the Arab nation. He pointed out that Sudan now is considering joining the Arab Cooperation Council or the Arab Maghreb Union. It might, on the other hand, form a tripartite union with Egypt and Libya.

Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir explained that Sudan's position on the Lebanon crisis is clear and based on what was decided by the Arabs in the Arab summit in Morocco. It also supports the efforts of the Arab tripartite committee, which was formed on the sidelines of the summit. We are looking forward to the response of the parties in Lebanon to the efforts of this

committee. Our wishes are to see a united Lebanon free from any foreign forces or interventions, because Lebanon has become a nightmare obsessing the Arab homeland.

On recalling Sudan's ambassador from Tehran, the Sudanese president affirmed that his country rejects any tutelage from any side. Its foreign policy cannot be influenced by outside factors. The media campaigns carried by the Iranian regime against Sudan and the revolution are nothing more than enmity toward the Arab homeland and a part of the Iranian regime's aggressive aspirations to dominate the Islamic nations.

On democracy in Sudan, he said that his government wants all sectors of the Sudanese people to participate in removing national decisionmaking from sectarianism, because it is the prime enemy of democracy in Sudan and anywhere else in the world. The RCC's political committee is now working on an ideal formulation to provide the Sudanese people with democratic practices to take national decisions.

Answering a question on the situation in southern Sudan, Lt Gen al-Bashir said: We believe in dialogue, a peaceful solution, and holding direct negotiations with the rebel movement. We welcome all those who come to the negotiating table to solve the problem; however, without any preconditions. He pointed out that his country had held contacts with a number of fraternal and friendly countries to help solve this problem.

He added that the tension in the Horn of Africa is on its way to resolution. He said an agreement had been reached to develop Sudanese-Ethiopian relations and put an end to the problems between the two countries.

Concludes Visit, Departs 30 Aug

JN3008192889 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council, left Baghdad this evening concluding an official 3-day visit to the country. President leader Saddam Husayn accompanied his guest, the Sudanese president, in an official motorcade from his place of residence. [passage omitted]

President Chairs RCC, Party, Cabinet Meeting

JN3008194089 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn at noon today chaired a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, and the cabinet.

During the meeting, they discussed issues on the agenda and took the appropriate decisions and measures concerning them.

Among the issues discussed during the joint meeting were various ways to increase and develop agricultural production, and the need to urge agriculturalists to use the most modern means of production to increase their output.

In his speech during the meeting, the president leader stressed the connection between imports and national production. He indicated his directives to set basic standards to which all government institutions and departments would adhere in order to reduce imports of products whose materials are available on the market for local production, or where local production can be increased, especially concerning agricultural products.

His excellency said that providing the appropriate incentives to expand locally produced agricultural yields could contribute toward increasing national production of these products, promote economic activity, and lighten the burden of importation.

President leader Saddam Husayn said that the policy of competition followed by us in rebuilding Basra and al-Faw has become a fixed policy which will be followed in executing all projects of reconstruction, development, and progress.

His excellency pointed out that all parties should evolve developed policies in every work program and apply them in future programs.

His excellency added: The Iraqis have high potentials and values. What is necessary now is that they function along clear and fixed lines and establish a network of machinery which can extract the full production potential of each individual and machine.

The council heard a report by the oil minister on the development of the production and export capacities of the oil industry.

Jordan's Al-Qasim Arrives in Baghdad 30 Aug

JN3008083489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0728 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Aug (INA)—Marwan al-Qasim, His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal's personal envoy to his brother President Saddam Husayn, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister, arrived in Baghdad this morning. He was received at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the director general of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry; and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Meets With Saddam

JN3008170889 Baghdad INA in English 1630 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 30, INA—President Saddam Husayn today received here the personal envoy of King Husayn of Jordan Mr. Marwan al-Qasim, deputy premier and foreign minister.

During the audience, Mr. al-Qasim conveyed a verbal message to President Husayn from the Jordanian monarch related to the close bilateral brotherly relations, developments of the Lebanese crisis and the responsibility of Arab countries in finding a final solution ensuring Lebanon's unity, security and stability and prevalence of its legal power over its entire national soil.

The audience was attended by Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister.

Issues Statement, Leaves

JN3008194689 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] The special envoy from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother President leader Saddam Husayn, Mr Marwan al-Qasim, said in a statement to INA before leaving Baghdad for Jeddah: His Majesty King Husayn has honored me with the task of conveying a message to President Saddam Husayn which contained his majesty's ideas on current Arab issues, especially on events in the Lebanese arena.

He added: His Majesty King Husayn affirmed that the unified Arab resolution which resulted from the Casablanca summit concerning the Lebanese crisis is the firm and true path to restore normality to Lebanon—an Arab country with national and pan-Arab links to its nation.

He was seen off by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

'Aziz Restates Position on Peace to UN Chief

JN2408195289 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has reiterated Iraq's continuing concern to strengthen the foundations of peace in the region. In a message delivered to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on 22 August by Iraq's UN permanent representative—who asked that the message be distributed and considered a Security Council document—'Aziz expressed his regret that, so far, no earnest steps have been taken to implement UN Resolution 598 as a comprehensive peace plan.

Tariq 'Aziz noted that the main obstacle to the implementation of the resolution was Iran's refusal to abide by the letter and spirit of the agreement of 8 August 1988, arrived at under the supervision of the UN secretary general.

UN's Eliasson Contacts Officials on Talks

JN2508183089 Baghdad INA in English 1656 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 25, INA—The latest round of contacts between the UN and each of Iraq and Iran on possibility of resuming the direct negotiations between the two countries that the stopped since last April was concluded here today.

Mr. Jan Eliasson, representative of the UN secretary general to the direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran held today a second session of consultations with an Iraqi official lasted about two hours while yesterday he held one session with an Iranian official within the frame of these consultations.

No official statement was issued today in that the deliberations in which Iraq was represented by Mr. Riyad al-Qaysi head of international and organisations department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs while the Iranian side was represented by Mohammad Javad Lavasani the deputy foreign minister.

It was mentioned that Mr Eliasson would hold similar consultations at the technical level with the two parties in Belgrade early September, at a time when the UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar had held separate meetings with each of Mr Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy premier and foreign minister and 'Ali Akbar Velayati the Iranian foreign minister during meetings of the non-aligned summit conference due to be held in the Yugoslav capital next month.

Assembly Speaker Sends Message to APU

JN2608175789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Aug (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has warned that what is taking place in Lebanon and that what has befallen it on all levels has rendered this Arab country—people and land—on the verge of elimination from the Arab homeland's map.

This came in a message sent by the National Assembly speaker today to the president of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] and also to the chairmen of parliamentary groups within the APU, appealing to them to work to secure the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon, foremost among which must be the Syrian troops. In his message, Salih urged the Arab governments to boycott the Syrian regime economically.

In his message, the National Assembly speaker also indicated that what has befallen Lebanon has come about because of the Zionist, Iranian, and Syrian interference which created a divisive status plaguing the Lebanese people and territory. He added that these criminal parties have become the domineering forces prompting the Lebanese to fight each other, while each of these forces contends that its presence on the Lebanese territory is contingent on the presence of the other forces.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih affirmed that the best way to enable the Lebanese to resolve their problems lies in the complete withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanese

territory and also in leaving the Lebanese people to resolve their problems away from foreign pressures and interferences.

Daily Urges Suspension of Arab Aid to Syria

JN2908111389 Baghdad INA in English 1040 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 29, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad called for suspending Arab assistance to the Syrian regime and expose its reality before Arab masses.

A daily commentary here today said that Arab governments are required to swiftly move for saving Lebanon from the conspiracy of Hafiz al-Asad who is seriously working for extending his control over the entire Lebanese territories. It added that work should be done for boosting the legitimacy of the Lebanese Government over Lebanon and ending the guardianship of Hafiz al-Asad regime over Lebanon.

The daily further stressed that Arab governments should punish the Syrian regime for its crimes it deserves leading among which suspension of Arab aids extended to it. [sentence as received]

AL-JUMHURIYAH further pointed out that statement of the tripartite Arab committee on Lebanon and its message addressed to Arab leaders clearly disclosed position of Hafiz al-Asad and its regime vis-a-vis Lebanon sovereignty... a position contradicts all Arab national values, charter of the Arab League and international law and norms.

The daily questions why Hafiz al-Asad refuses to withdraw his forces from Lebanon and prevents the Lebanese legitimate government from exercising its sovereignty over the entire Lebanese soil. It also questions why Hafiz al-Asad attempts to eliminate an Arab role for finding a just and balanced settlement realising conciliation among the Lebanese.

Oil Delegation Leaves for Moscow 29 Aug

JN2908111589 Baghdad INA in English 1025 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 29, INA—An Iraqi oil delegation headed for Moscow today on a several-day visit to the Soviet Union.

The delegation, headed by the oil undersecretary, will discuss technical cooperation in the fields of oil industry and projects under execution by Soviet companies in Iraq.

'Slight Damage' Caused in Galilee Rocket Attack

TA3108043689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] A Katyusha rocket was fired into the Galilee panhandle last night. The army says there was slight damage, but no one was hurt. The head of the army's Northern Command, Major General Yosi Peled, says Hizballah was responsible. Israel returned fire at the source of the attack.

Peled Cited on Reaction

TA3108061689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Chief of Staff Dan Shomron and Major General Yosi Peled, the commander of the Northern Command, arrived at the scene of last night's Katyusha attack. They met local residents and promised that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] would take all the steps necessary to reduce Katyusha fire at the Galilee. In an interview with IDF Radio, Maj Gen Peled said he believes that Hizballah terrorists are responsible for last night's Katyusha attack on the Galilee panhandle. He spoke to our northern correspondent Menahem Horowitz.

[Begin recording] [Peled] My reaction is that anyone who thinks that firing Katyushas at the Galilee is one-sided will find that we will decide what we have to do regarding this matter.

[Horowitz] Katyushas were fired at the western Galilee several days or approximately 2 weeks ago, Katyushas were fired at Metulla 4 months ago, and now on the Galilee panhandle. Do you regard this as an exacerbation of the terrorists' attempts to attack the Galilee settlements?

[Peled] I am going to disappoint you on this question on exacerbation. Katyushas on the Galilee were not invented in 1989 or 1988. To my regret, the residents of the Galilee have lived with this phenomenon for many years. We must find a way to reduce it to a minimum, as I can, in all prudence, say we have managed to do over the last few months. If these incidents become more frequent, we will have to consider what steps to take.

[Horowitz] Can you at this time estimate who is launching these Katyushas at the western Galilee and the Galilee panhandle?

[Peled] I believe that the Hizballah is responsible for the shooting. This is how I see it at the moment.

[Horowitz] Is this connected with the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd? Has it anything to do with the recent tension created by the Shaykh's abduction?

[Peled] I would like to remind all those with short memories that Hizballah fired Katyushas before the kidnapping as well. We always like to connect incidents to various causes, but I would not link the two things. [end recording]

3 Rockets Fall on Galilee

TA3108094289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] An investigation conducted in the Galilee panhandle this morning found that three Katyusha rockets landed there last night and not one, as previously thought. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that one rocket fell near the border fence, another fell in an agricultural area, and the third landed next to an inhabited building in one of the local settlements.

Property tax inspectors this morning assessed the damages caused to apartments, and a local contractor has already been entrusted with carrying out renovations. Teams from the Electric and Water Companies finished the necessary repairs.

Vacationing Envoy to Colombia Asked To Return

TA3008155189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Israel's ambassador to Colombia, Gid'on Tadmor, has been asked to cut short his vacation in the United States and return to Bogota as early as today. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that the Foreign Ministry refrained from immediately asking him to cut short his holiday after the latest affair broke out so as not to dramatize it, and because Ministry officials did not think it would acquire such dimensions. Nevertheless, one of the reasons for the recall of the ambassador to Bogota was the demand for this by the leaders of the local Jewish community.

No Evidence of Drug Links; Investigation To End

TA3108080489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Sources at police headquarters this morning estimated that if the Colombian police do not provide information pointing to Israeli involvement in drug transactions, the police investigation into the matter will be concluded within 1 week.

Commander Yehoshu'a Kaspi, the head of the Investigations Division at police headquarters, told our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum that so far, no material has been uncovered suggesting that Hod Hahanit instructors had anything to do with narcotics in Colombia.

Detectives from the General Investigation unit will collect statements from Defense Ministry personnel today to clarify the regulations governing the issue of overseas export permits for defense-related commodities and determine whether Hod Hahanit was in possession of the required permits. The police emphasize that this is not an interrogation, but only evidence gathering.

Defense Ministry Denies Rabin Messages to PLO

TA3108043989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The Defense Ministry is denying that Minister Yitzhaq Rabin sent at least three messages to the PLO over the past 6 months. The claim was made by PLO Central Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, who said the messages were delivered through a third party. [passage omitted]

Rabin Notes Reasons for Temporary Uprising Calm

TA3008195089 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Report on tour of Nabulus by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Beni Liss on 30 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Liss] The story of a lookout post in the center of Nabulus that was the target of a terrorist's gunfire was the starting point for the defense minister's tour of the area today. Its story indicates that the intifadah [uprising] is apparently changing in nature. Now there are no more large-scale demonstrations, or incidents in which stones are thrown or tires burned, as we have seen in the past. Instead, masked squads operate in localized points, terrorizing the Arab population and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. [passage omitted]

The intifadah, said the minister, is making fewer headlines in the world. This may have caused the escalation in the violence because the locals want to capture front-page headlines.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Defense Minister, how do you explain the fact that although the intifadah is waning, the daily toll of casualties is high?

[Rabin] First of all, I never said that the uprising, or the intifadah as they call it, is waning. I believe that for a certain period of time there was a drop in tension, and the public atmosphere was calmer. This was coupled with a certain decrease in violent activity, or the type of violent activity that characterized the uprising—namely, stonings, barricades, and the like.

I believe that this calm, which lasted for a limited time, stemmed from two causes: On the one hand, I believe that it was the Israeli Government's initiative and the feeling of the locals that there was a chance to find a solution, regardless of its nature; and on the other, it was the IDF's activity and the operations conducted by the other defense branches that led to a certain lull.

I think the Fatah convention signaled quite clearly that the chances that a political process could begin are growing slimmer. I would not say it signaled the total collapse of these chances, but it signaled that its chances are far dimmer. Furthermore, I believe that the convention also issued clear messages urging an escalation of the violence. At the same time, there is no doubt in my mind that if we manage to strike at the hard core, and initial signs show that we have indeed managed to do that, and if we simultaneously deal with those who perpetrate the acts typical to the uprising—those who throw stones and erect barricades—I believe we will be able to prove to those who desire such an escalation that they will not succeed. [passage omitted]

[Liss] The defense minister strongly condemned, and firmly denied reports published today that career IDF officers were forced to terminate their activity in Colombia due to the latest publicity. Mr Rabin said that there are no IDF officers in Colombia at all.

[Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 30 August carries an update on the above report, adding: "The defense minister's media adviser wishes to deny reports that the Defense Ministry was using the services of the Shin Bet in probing the Israeli involvement in Colombia."]

Request To Join Disarmament Convention Rejected

TA3008163789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Israel's request to join the talks on boycotting chemical weapons has been rejected. Pinhas Eli'av, Israel's ambassador to the UN institutions in Geneva, said that about 3 months ago Israel submitted a request to join the disarmament convention, which includes 40 countries. According to Eli'av, Israel will continue to exert pressure for acceptance by the convention when it reconvenes in 6 months. Israeli officials say that one of the reasons for Israel's request to join the organization is its concern over the proliferation of chemical weapons in the Middle East.

Aviation Agreement Signed With Kenya

TA3008145689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] A short time ago, Kenya and Israel signed an aviation agreement. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that the agreement signed at the transportation minister's office regulates tariffs, the distribution of passenger quotas between the two national airlines, and air routes, as well as customs and security arrangements and various levies. El Al was granted landing rights in Mombasa, as well as in Nairobi.

Druze Warn Against Intervention in Lebanon

TA2608091689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] The Druze Follow-Up Committee has called on Israel not to intervene in the war currently raging in Lebanon. At the end of a special committee session Professor Fadl Mansur, the head of the committee, said that the conflict in Lebanon stems from struggles among the various factions there over the redistribution of powers, and does not concern Israel. According to him,

any Israeli intervention in the crisis may negatively affect relations between Jews and Druze in Israel.

Contract for 2 Submarines Signed With FRG

TA3108151389 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Aug 89 p 2

[Report by Dan Sagir]

[Text] Several days ago in the United States, a contract was signed with German shipyards for the construction of two Dolphin submarines for the Israeli Navy. The start of the actual construction of the submarine hulls in the German shipyards has been delayed until the resolution of the political struggle waged inside the West German Government over the subsidies the shipyards are to receive for the work for the Israeli Navy.

The main contractor for the submarines are the Engels [as published] shipyards, which are also building the Navy's three Saar-5 missile ships. The total cost of the submarine project will be $570 million, with the principal financing coming from U.S. military aid funds. The submarines are to be delivered to the Navy in about 5 years.

Details of IDF Multiyear Plan Reported

TA3108142889 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 31 Aug 89 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Dani Sade]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] hopes to be able to sign an agreement for the purchase of Apache helicopters within a few weeks and to receive them in the current work year. These premises are part of the IDF's multiyear plan, which has been approved in principle by the defense minister and which will be presented to the cabinet on Sunday, 3 September.

The multiyear plan, which has been completed by the IDF's Planning Branch, also includes the purchase of Blackhawk assault helicopters during the next decade.

The multiyear plan places special emphasis on the following: Intelligence systems; PGM (precision-guided munition); command and control systems; the continued provision of advanced warfare means to ground forces; the upgrading of fire control systems; the upgrading of tank and artillery ammunition; and, of course, the continued procurement of equipment for the Navy and the Air Force.

A senior IDF Planning Branch officer yesterday addressed the multiyear plan: "When one works on a multiyear plan, one tries to imagine the gravest possible situation in which Israel can find itself in the next decade... Naturally, the entire plan is built on the knowledge we have today. It may have to be altered if a war breaks out, if the political constellation changes (if peace with Syria is established, for instance), or if there is a substantial change in the size of the defense budget."

Another senior officer said that if the government does not reimburse the IDF for all the expenses incurred in the territories, "We will be forced to make cuts in development, procurement, and training." The same officer added that because of the uprising, 8 percent of IDF soldiers are currently deployed in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. According to him, their stay in the territories is a burden on the army's budget, and the defense establishment will ask the government to cover the entire expenditure incurred by the deployment in the territories.

S. Lebanon's 'Biggest Drug Dealer' Captured

TA1108141489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] The Tel Aviv District Court extended by 15 days the remand against southern Lebanon's biggest drug dealer. The man was detained last night by Israeli police in southern Lebanon and brought to Israel. The police said the arrest was made possible after a drug smuggling gang was smashed last week.

Our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i reports that the police representative told the court an astonishing story about drug deals worth a fortune. It seems that the man smuggled hundreds of kilograms of drugs into Israel for some time. The police said that he faces a death sentence in Egypt for drug smuggling in that country. It seems that he tried to smuggle into Egypt by boat 300 kg heroin, 360 kg opium, and 1,600 kg hashish.

It was also reported that Egypt cooperated with Israel in the efforts to arrest the drug dealer. Chief Superintendent Rami Zotler of the police General Investigations Branch told our correspondent that at this stage the man will not be extradited to Egypt and will stand trial here. He said that suspects were detained in the boat seized in Egypt and they are now in Israel.

255 Malaria Cases Reported Over Past Year

TA3108045289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Over the past year in Israel, there were 255 cases of malaria. The Health Ministry says those affected acquired the disease outside the country; 90 percent are Ethiopian immigrants.

Soldier Dies Following Stoning 2 Weeks Ago

TA3108044989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] A reserve soldier struck in the head in a stone-throwing incident in Khan Yunus 2 weeks ago was found dead yesterday in his home. Results of an initial police investigation indicate the death was connected to the attack. Family members said he had suffered headaches and vomiting since being hurt in the incident in Khan Yunus.

Khan Yunus Resident Dies of Wounds 31 Aug

TA3108081689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Excerpt] A resident of Khan Yunus died of his wounds in the Gaza Strip today. He was injured at the beginning of the week during a clash with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. It remains unclear whether the workers' strike in the Gaza Strip will end tomorrow. This strike has been going on for 2 weeks to protest the issue of magnetic entry permits from the Gaza Strip into Israel. Here is our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv with an update from the Gaza Strip:

Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Ara, a 19-year-old resident of Khan Yunus who was seriously injured during riots on 27 August, died of his wounds in the al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus this morning. His body was snatched by his parents and buried. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of his death.

The curfew on Dayr al-Balah remains in force. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 31 August adds that "the curfews clamped on Tulkarm and the village of Irtah several days ago because of disturbances were lifted this morning. Our correspondent adds that there is a general strike in the town of Tulkarm, and students have left school in mourning over a youth killed 3 days ago in a clash with soldiers."] [passage omitted]

Nabulus Man Murdered; Police To Investigate

TA3108082589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] A 28-year-old resident of Nabulus has been stabbed to death. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that his body was found in a peddler's cart left in the center of town by a group of masked youths. The army closed off the area, and the police launched an investigation. Local residents told our correspondent that the murder was probably over collaboration with the Israeli authorities.

Divergent Death Tolls in Territories Reported

TA3008102589 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 30 Aug 89 p 10

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 28 August, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported that the number of Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories stands at 463. The number includes deaths by IDF soldiers' gunfire only.

According to the HA'OLAM HAZE count, the number of fatalities stands at 591.

Palestinian sources, however, said that the total number of fatalities is 722, according to the following breakdown:

—514 killed by IDF and settlers' gunfire.
—80 dead from asphyxiation.
—50 dead by beating and electrocution.
—78 dead from other causes.

Orders Issued for Destruction of 5 Houses

TA3008164489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] The military government in the Gaza Strip today served demolition orders to five home owners in the Jabalyah refugee camp. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that members of the families residing in those houses are suspected of having taken part in the activities of the popular committees and the strike forces. The home owners may appeal the orders. A gang was apprehended today in the Ra's al-'Ayn neighborhood of Nabulus when its members tried to flee an Israeli army roadblock. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the members of the gang were found in the possession of an axe, a switchblade, and money. The security forces are proceeding with their investigation.

A 15-year-old boy was wounded today by soldiers' gunfire in the village of Surif in the Hebron area. Riots broke out in the village after the Civil Administration demolished several illegally-built houses.

Central Bank Governor Al-Nabulsi Interview Cited

JN2708085589 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Aug 89 p 1

[Report on an interview with Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, by Rabab Mangu in Amman; date not given]

[Text] It is no secret that what is preoccupying the Jordanian citizen's thinking is the economic issue and that the current topic of discussion is also that of economy. Since the beginning of this month and following the recent measures taken by the Central bank of Jordan [CBJ], we began to note signs indicating the return of confidence and relief on the part of the citizens, particularly about the tangible improvement of the Jordanian dinar's exchange rate against foreign currencies. Fluctuation between supply and demand dominated the financial and gold markets until demand for foreign currencies began to become reasonable. The present signs of activity in local economy that we are now feeling came as a result of a comprehensive reform program, a rectification of our financial situation, the conclusion of an agreement with the IMF, and the obtainment of quick aid from sisterly Arab states. Our request for the IMF help was accompanied by conditions which everyone questioned. Through a lengthy interview with CBJ Governor Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, AL-RA'Y tried to obtain answers to questions regarding the essence and truth of our situation.

Speaking about the background of the CBJ's rectification policy which it began to adopt 2 months ago in relation to a two-tier exchange rate for the dinar, Dr al-Nabulsi said: The CBJ's attempt to rectify control over the economic situation by adopting the two-tier system was not the real remedy of the situation because what was important was to build up reserves quickly. He said: "The first action undertaken by the CBJ upon the implementation of its new policy was the implementation of the legal ruling that was previously followed to price the dinar on a new level against the dollar. The bank reduced it from 540 to 580 fils per dollar and the price of the dinar was determined directly in connection with the dollar contary to previous practice and the law stipulating that the price should be determined by the Special Drawing Rights and that any change in it should come through calculating other currencies in the cross rate with the Special Drawing Rights."

He added: "The CBJ implemented the ruling on a new level by raising the price of the dollar and considering the normal fluctuation in the prices of the dollar abroad and their reflection on the local price. This action fixed the reduction that occurred at that time in the price of the dinar from 350 to 850 fils per dollar. It also applied the law in a better way and found a formula reflecting the fluctuatuions of the foreign currency prices abroad in favor of our trade. It was natural for the world prices of the dollar to reflect on us locally. Otherwise, it would be harmful to our economy."

He continues discussing the background of the previous economic situation: "The previous economic factors present in the economy which led to the collapse of the currency prices, were created by a sharp decrease in the expatriates' remittances even though there was a small increase in our revenues from exports. These factors created demand on foreign currency. More importantly was the smuggling of capital. The result was that 3 months ago a major deficiency was created between supply and demand of foreign currency for storing and speculation purposes and to make this a widespread phenomenon in the economic structure."

He adds: "All these phenomena entrenched within the economic structure led us to adopt the two tier exchange rate policy to control the situation."

On the new course taken by the bank to control the economic situation and build the reserves at the same time, Dr al-Nabulsi affirmed that His Majesty King Husayn's efforts and initiatives to support the bank by providing it with all requirements led to the beginning of a change toward a sound economic situation. He said: "His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to support the CBJ, affirm its independence, and set defined goals to restabilize the currency, in addition to the huge government effort throughout 2 months, led to creating the basic and correct factor in the start of a change toward the sound economic situation.

Concerning the amount of aid received by Jordan from the fraternal Arab states, he said: "Jordan recently received $320 million from them: $200 million from Saudi Arabia and $120 million from other sources, in addition to $180 million from internal activities, 35 percent of which came from banks and the rest through the surplus of foreign currency sold to us by the banks."

Therefore, the Jordanian reserve has exceeded $500 million.

On the breach that existed previously between the Finance Ministry and the CJB, he pointed out that his majesty the king's efforts in affirming the independence of the bank were exerted to bridge the gap between the two sides.

He said: "The other breach which affected the economic situation in the past in addition to the factors we mentioned—the presence of high liquidity in the economy resulting from the deficit in the state budget during the past three years—reflected on issuing currency and created the severe breach between the Ministry and the bank where the law was broken and money was issued without cover. Things have changed now since the Finance Ministry is working very hard to balance the budget by cutting expenses and improving revenues."

Al-Nabulsi added: "The government's effort which focused on controlling the budget on the one hand and concluding an agreement with the IMF on the other has brought the financial situation and the state budget

under control. Besides, this effort paved the way for the rescheduling of debts. Moreover, this helped Jordan obtain urgent aid from fraternal Arab states. All of these things put us on the sound economic track. We can say that the deficit, which was huge 3 years ago, has been considerably reduced".

The CBJ governor indicated that the beginnings of improvement in the situation emerged as a result of all previous reform measures and said that this occurred against the economic background which led to the CBJ's adoption of a two-tier system for the exchange rate of the dinar. He added: "The CBJ adopted the two-tier system for the exchange rate of the dinar to eliminate domestic speculation (the black market), especially the speculation by the Israeli occupation authorities. When the two-tier exchange rate system involving a free rate, which is close to the black market rate, was launched, "a change in expectations" was created and the foreign currency which used to be stored in and absorbed by the black market to be used for speculation purposes began to pour into banks; and this was the beginning of the improvement in the situation."

On whether the quantity of hard currency pouring into banks constitutes a considerable amount compared to the amounts stored to be used for speculation in the market, Dr al-Nabulsi affirmed that a large percent of this hard currency is now in the banks. He added: "Approximately 80 percent of the foreign currencies stored locally has been absorbed by the banks. This was made possible when concerted efforts were made through the adoption of corrective measures. These corrective measures created a turning point in the citizens' expectations. The initial signs of the prevalence of an atmosphere of trust and financial control, and the launching of a free banking rate had a basic role in convincing the citizens that the foreign currency rates will begin to decline rather than rise and this caused them to exchange a large amount of their foreign currency reserves."

In reply to a question on the effect of the change in the citizens' expectations on the expatriates' remittances, Dr al-Nabulsi said: "The turning point realized in the citizens' expectations, their sale of their currency reserves, the increase in the expatriates' remittances, and the restoration of the normal inflow of foreign currency from abroad—the currency which has been withheld—have enabled the CBJ to increase its reserves through buying the surplus transfers from banks and financial institutions which have recently been in the vicinity of $50 million."

Asked if the expatriates' remittances have returned to normal, he indicated that he expected remittances to reach levels close to the previous ones and said: "The flow of currencies from abroad has reached a point much higher than the low point reached 3 months ago. The remittances amounted to $1.4 billion a year in the past and dropped to the lowest point of $600 million a year." He added: "During the last 3 months, remittances rose to more than twice their previous size and amounted to more than $900 million. I expect them to rise to $1.2 billion."

Asked about what is reported about the IMF's role and that the IMF is a colonialist instrument, and also asked about the mechanism of the agreement concluded between the IMF and the Jordanian Government, he noted that the IMF is not a colonialist disaster nor a savior and said: "The IMF's role is traditionally known to be neither that of savior nor colonizer. The IMF takes upon itself the task of helping the countries requesting its assistance by drawing up reform programs through cutting the budget deficit by either increasing revenues or reducing expenditure or both. The IMF intervenes by imposing exchange rate policies based on the principle of leaving the price to drop to the appropriate level."

On the meaning of the appropriate level, he said: "According to the IMF, the value of the local currency should drop to the level of its real value as dictated by factors of supply and demand in local economy. The IMF pressures governments so that the price of their currencies would not be artificial. Differences might emerge over the real price as this encompasses other factors. The IMF might intervene in the interest rate structures by raising them and changing the import and export trade policies. It might sometimes clash with the concerned states on many factors some of which are acceptable and others unacceptable like its intervention to allow prices to go up according to supply and demand or to cancel government subsidies."

He added: "Among the accusations leveled against the IMF is that it is insensitive to public opinion and to social problems of the concerned states as well as to aspects of economic growth, and that it cares only for the implementation of financial and monetary reform programs without caring for growth rates. We believe that these accusations are unfair because the IMF does not interfere in local political considerations and leaves them to the concerned states. It also gives them the option of accepting or rejecting its program."

He said: "Our relationship with the IMF is new. We did not seek to have any reform programs with it previously. Jordan has a history of growth from its own potentials and from Arab aid without needing the IMF. When we needed the IMF, its evaluation of the situation was identical to ours from all aspects concerning the presence of a flaw in the budget and squandering foreign indebtedness. Regarding subsidizing the basic commodities, it had a point of view concerning the reapplication of policies previously applied on this issue. However, the government will continue subsidies for a long time and will not interfere in the local subsidy policies."

On the relations between Jordan and the IMF, he went on to say: "Our relationship with the IMF is healthy and constructive. We have no basic disagreement with it, even though there might be some points on which we

disagree. The real benefit from the IMF does not come through the loans given with the reform program, which in total are trivial loans. It lies in benefiting from the practical aspect of rescheduling foreign debts, which cannot take place without a certificate of good conduct from the IMF. Although there is some constraint in the agreement, we feel that without this agreement with the IMF, rescheduling would not have been possible."

He adds: "We are pleased with what the agreement with the IMF has achieved concerning the budget and controlling foreign debt. Therefore, we were not forced against our will into the agreement, despite the fact that there might have been some simple sacrifices whose significance was far less than controling debt, the budget, and rescheduling foreign debt."

Regarding Jordan's commitments toward foreign indebtedness and its ability to cover it once the grace period ends, Dr al-Nabulsi clarified: "Jordan is capable of covering its foreign commitments if it preserves the reform policies and current financial control and does not increase foreign debts. This was our commitment to the IMF. The IMF's study was also based on this; that is, our ability to pay our debts."

On whether the dinar exchange rate has recently approached its true level, he said: "We believe that we have greatly approached the dinar's true exchange rate. We believe that the true price ranges between 600 fils at its lowest and 700 fils at its highest banking rate. The CBJ will try during the coming few months to unite the two prices by improving the price in the market. We will not impose an exchange rate."

On whether the Arab aid, which has lately largely contributed to activating the economy, will be part of next year's state general budget, Dr al-Nabulsi said: "Arab aid during the next 5 years—the readjustment period—will be as important as the aid received this year. Maintaining this aid at the level attained this year is extremely important. Our explanation to our Arab brothers of our economic situation is based on the concept that we will continue to need this aid during the next 5 years and that once this period ends, it will be up to them whether they would decide to maintain such aid or to stop it, especially in defense matters, as Jordan cannot continue to enhance its defense capabilities without obataining special aid".

The CBJ governor added: "As for the rest of our needs, the reform program requires the continuation of Arab aid. At the same time, we will continue during the coming 5 years to work to develop our intrinsic capabilities, as we are heading toward attaining large intrinsic development."

On his conviction regarding the realization of good growth rates during the grace period, Dr al-Nabulsi indicated that since the sixties Jordan has realized substantial development in its intrinsic capabilities. He added: "We managed during the seventies and the beginning of the eighties to realize substantial development and good growth rates. Our exports did not exceed $200 million 10 years ago, whereas they now exceed $1 billion. Besides, we managed to cover through our intrinsic capabilities all the current expenditures contained in the budget during the past 4-5 years. In the past, we used to cover only 20 percent of the current expenditures".

The CBJ governor went on to say: "We must regain the growth rates which we realized in the seventies. Jordan has achieved good growth rates since the sixties. There is nothing to prevent the restoration of these rates through the pursuit of an ambitious development program that would enable us to take a big leap forward. Had it not been for the foreign debt, the repayment of which will require $1 billion every year during a 2-year period and had it not been for the need to pay off these debts, we would not have needed any aid."

In reply to a question on whether domestic banks and financial institutions were asked to enter into mergers, Dr al-Nabulsi said: "There will be no forced mergers involving banks and financial institutions. Discussions and negotiations are currently under way over three mergers in which we have no involvement".

Regarding the current negotiations to honor obligations toward the American depositors in Washington's Petra Bank and the future of the bank, the governor said the CBJ is trying to change the current management of Petra Bank in Washington so that the current management of Petra Bank in Amman will be responsible for the bank. He said: Negotiations are under way between Petra Bank and the U.S. Federal Reserve Board because 70 percent of the bank's property belongs to Petra Bank in Amman and 30 percent to other proprietors. We are now trying to change its management in Washington and make it follow the new management in Amman. Once this is achieved, we will extend help and assistance to it.

Regarding the current investigation into the Amman Petra Bank, he said: "It will be a long time before investigations reveal the truth about its internal situation. What is important is that the matter has been referred to international auditors who will make an inventory of its accounts and ascertain its true situation."

Asked if the CBJ, in cooperation with the concerned quarters, is in the process of adopting new measures to curtail banking irregularities and to scrutinize dealings in the unofficial money and gold market, he said: "The CBJ is empowered to continuously scrutinize and inspect these operations and deal with them, but the CBJ embarks on radical measures only when ordinary measures fail. There are continuous banking violations and irregularities, but they all occur within limits."

He added: "The CBJ and the concerned quarters are in the process of considering the entire law in order to scrutinize currencies and illegal operations for the sake of tightening up restrictions and increasing the CBJ's authority."

Asked about the reported intention to allow the reopening of money changers soon, he said: "Fixing the date for reopening the money changers hinges upon the government. We are now in the process of preparing a new draft law with new conditions and terms."

Asked if he supports reopening the money changers, he said: "We support the reopening of the the money changers under new conditions and terms and under a completely new reorganization that guarantees that the old abuses will not reemerge."

Further on Syrian Foreign Minister's Visit

Meets With Prime Minister

JN2608142889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] Amman—His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir, the prime minister, this afternoon received at his office in the Prime Ministry Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian foreign minister. Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended.

During the meeting, developments in Lebanon were reviewed. Both sides asserted the need to bolster common Arab action to resolve the Lebanese crisis, which constitutes a weak link in Arab national security, since Arabs are more suited to resolving their issues by coordinating stands for the benefit of the Arab nation.

The discussion also dealt with relations between the two brotherly countries and means to improve them in all fields.

The meeting was attended by Yusuf Shakkur, Syrian assistant foreign minister; the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus; and the Syrian ambassador in Amman.

Further on Meeting

JN2608161689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Amman—A meeting was held in Amman this afternoon between Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd Ibn-Shakir. The meeting was attended by the members of the Syrian Arab and Jordanian delegations.

Talks during the meeting revolved around means to promote bilateral relations as well as the Arab situation, especially the current situation in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Responding to questions posed by journalists at the airport, Faruq al-Shar' expressed thanks for Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim's invitation to visit Amman within the framework of exchanging views and continuing consultations between officials in both countries.

Al-Shar' added: His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad asked me to convey a message to his brother His Majesty King Husayn on means to promote bilateral relations as well as the current situation in the region and all of interest to the two sisterly countries.

Received by King Husayn

JN2608174689 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] This evening His Majesty King Husayn received at the Prime Ministry Syria's Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who communicated to his majesty a verbal message from his brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic. Present at the audience were Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and Al-Shar's delegation.

Further on Husayn Meeting

JN2608204089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] Amman—With the attendance of His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir, the prime minister, His Majesty King Husayn this evening received at the Prime Ministry Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who conveyed to his majesty a verbal message from his brother His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad, president of the brotherly Syrian Arab Republic. In his message, his excellency expressed his greetings and appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn and his best wishes of continued progress and prosperity for the Jordanian people.

Al-Shar' explained to His Majesty King Husayn the Syrian Government's position on the events taking place in Lebanon and his government's concepts on means to resolve the current crisis in brotherly Lebanon.

During the meeting, His Majesty King Husayn confirmed Jordan's adherence to the Casablanca summit resolutions and Jordan's support for the efforts made by the Arab tripartite committee emanating from the summit. His majesty also referred to the need to mend the bloody crack in Lebanon since it is an Arab country and in view of the fact that what happens there affects the future and safety of the Arab nation.

The meeting was attended by Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Yusuf Shakkur, Al-Shar's assistant; and the accompanying delegation.

Confers With Ibn-Shakir 27 Aug

JN2708175289 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir received in his office at the Prime Ministry this evening Syria's Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim in attendance. The discussions in this second meeting between the prime minister and Al-Shar' focused on the Lebanese question and the best approach to a solution.

The prime minister underscored Jordan's position calling for a resumption of the work of the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon to find a definitive solution to the country's crisis.

Jordan's assertion of this position proceeds from a firm conviction to promote an Arab-sponsored resolution of the Lebanese crisis and to avert internationalizing the problem or further spreading it.

Al-Shar' said Syria welcomed the resumption of the Arab tripartite committee's work and declared his country's resolve to help carry out its task.

Meanwhile, Al-Shar' and his delegation left Amman this evening after a 2-day visit to Jordan. He was seen off by Marwan al-Qasim and a number of officials as well as the Jordanian and Syrian ambassadors in Damascus and Amman.

Delegations Hold Talks

JN2708153689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] The official round of talks between the Syrian delegation under Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Jordanian side under Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, was held this morning at the Jordanian Foreign Ministry in Amman.

The talks dealt with the Arab situation and ways to improve it, as well as the Arab-Israeli conflict and means to support the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied Arab territories.

The talks also dealt with developments on the Lebanese arena and supporting the [Arab] tripartite committee to implement the Casablanca summit resolution to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

PRC Foreign Minister To Visit 15-18 Sep

JN3008171689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] At the invitation of Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen will pay a 3-day official visit to Jordan from 15-18 September 1989. During the visit, Qian will meet with senior Jordanian officials and hold official talks on various issues of interest to the two countries as well as on current international issues.

French Envoy Scheer Concludes Meetings, Visit

Shams-Al-Din Meets Scheer

NC3008163189 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] French envoy Francois Scheer is continuing his meetings with Lebanese leaders. He is scheduled to meet Minister Walid Junblatt and Druze spiritual leader Shaykh Muhammad Abu-Shaqra today and then leave for Riyadh on the first leg of a tour of the capitals of the Arab tripartite committee countries.

The French envoy today met with Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr and Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the higher Shiite council. He also met with Shaykh Muhammad Rashid Qabbani, acting mufti of the republic, at 1600 today.

Following his meeting with the French envoy, Shaykh Shams-al-Din said: Scheer did not convey 'Awn's position to me. We discussed various aspects of the problem, such as the cease-fire, the monitoring of the beaches, the mission of the Arab committee, and the political solution. I expressed my opinion on these issues.

Shams-al-Din added: The French are proving to be increasingly flexible and understanding. We have urged them to see the situation as it really is. Asked about the French fleet, Shams-al-Din said: This is no longer a problem.

Shams-al-Din said that he explained to the French envoy his views on reforms and on the role of the Arab committee. Shams-al-Din said that there can be no possible improvement on the Casablanca resolutions. Shams-al-Din said: We have asked for more support for the Arab committee's efforts. We believe that the holding of an Arab summit will be a crime. Such a summit would undermine the efforts to resolve the crisis and should be abandoned.

The French envoy, for his part, described his visit to Patriarch Sfayr this morning as instructive and useful. The envoy said: I have nothing to add to what I said yesterday. I will try to meet many of the Lebanese figures who are interested in the inter-Lebanese dialogue which we encourage and hope to see resumed as soon as possible.

Scheer Speaks With Junblatt

NC3008172389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Francois Scheer, French Foreign Ministry secretary general, met with Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, from 1730 to 1930 today. Following the meeting, Scheer said it had been successful, like all his meetings.

Scheer Leaves Beirut for Cyprus

NC3108092189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Francois Scheer, secretary general of the French Foreign Ministry, left Beirut this morning for Cyprus on his way to Riyadh at the start of a tour of the capitals of the member states of the Arab committee. Scheer will brief the committee members on the results of his talks in Beirut and Damascus on the Lebanese crisis.

AFP has noted that West Beirut newspapers have taken a more moderate attitude toward France since Scheer's visit.

France-USSR Lebanon Agreement Published

JN3008163689 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 29 Aug 89 p 18

[Text] Paris, AL-QABAS—Paris-based high-level Western sources have told AL-QABAS that there is a a four-point French-Soviet agreement designed to settle the Lebanese crisis. The sources added that the agreement particularly provides for working to convince the Syrian leadership of the need to withdraw its troops from Beirut and the mountain area to the al-Biqa' region within a specificed period of time. The sources went on to say that the new mission of French envoy Francois Scheer in both Syria and Lebanon and in the states of the Arab tripartite committee is part of the French-Soviet agreement to cooperate to bring about peace in Lebanon. The sources affirmed that the United States supports the speedy withdrawal of Syrian troops to al-Biqa' and that the U.S.-USSR-French coordination on Lebanon is currently better and stronger than ever.

The Western sources told AL-QABAS that the French-Soviet agreement on Lebanon was reached as a result of the recent talks and contacts between Moscow and Paris on various levels. The unannounced agreement forms the main basis for the efforts and moves by the two countries to resolve the Lebanese crisis and also for the distribution of roles necessary to establish peace in Lebanon.

The western sources disclosed to AL-QABAS that the French-Soviet agreement on Lebanon contains the following points:

1. Stopping all plans or attempts by any party to settle the situation militarily in the Lebanese arena or to carry out storming operations or incursions into this or that area or to resume the barbarous shelling against civilian residents. The French and Soviet officials agreed that any attempt to storm or overrun any area, or to control any area through the use of military force in this country or in any part of it, will lead to a regional crisis and to military confrontations. These confrontations will spill over into areas outside the Lebanese arena and consequently pose a threat to the security and stability of the entire Middle East. In addition, the French and Soviet officials also agreed on the need to find practical means

acceptable to all parties to consolidate the cease-fire, lift the blockades, and stop arms shipments to the Lebanese parties. They also stress the need for all parties to make mutual concessions to help reach a formula acceptable to all in order to consolidate the security truce and move to political dialogue.

2. Working to convince the Syrian leadership and the various Lebanese parties to accept the working plan drawn up by the higher Arab tripartite committee, considering that this is a balanced plan capable of resolving all aspects of the Lebanese problem.

The plan particularly calls for introducing wide-ranging reforms in the Lebanese political system. Furthermore, the plan provides for a phased cancellation of sectarianism and also for rebuilding Lebanese institutions. It also calls for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese troops from Lebanon; that is, for the withdrawal of Israeli, Syrian, and Iranian troops from Lebanon as a condition that must be met if the sovereignty of the Lebanese state is to be imposed on the entire Lebanese territory through the use of this state's intrinsic capabilities as provided for in the Casablanca summit resolutions.

Moreover, the French and Soviets agreed that the mere voicing of international support for the Arab tripartite committee and its plan is not enough. They believe that more effective, practical, and actual modes of support must be provided to the committee and its plan. Consequently, they believe that practical proposals and ideas must be proposed to Syrian officials and the Lebanese parties to help put this plan into effect. This is what has been done by Soviet envoy Gennadiy Tarasov during the contacts which he held in Damascus and Beirut at the end of last week. This is also what will be done by French envoy Francois Scheer, secretary general of the French Foreign Affairs Ministry, during his contacts in Syria and Lebanon, which began in Damascus yesterday.

3. Working to convince the Syrian leadership of the need to withdraw its forces from Beirut and the mountain to al-Biqa' area according to a fixed timetable. This decision by Syria would constitute an essential factor for the success of the Arab and various international efforts in settling the Lebanese problem.

The well-informed Western sources affirmed to AL-QABAS that Soviet envoy Tarasov had actually discussed the issue of the withdrawal of the Syrian troops from Beirut and the mountain to al-Biqa' during his talks with Syrian officials in Damascus last week, but this has not been publicized.

4. Adhering to a fully sovereign, unified, and independent Lebanon within its recognized international borders and not relinquishing any part of the Lebanese territory. The French and Soviet officials agreed that it is in Syria's interest actually, practically, and officially to accept the establishment of special and close relations between it and an independent, unified, and fully sovereign Lebanon. They also agreed that it is in Syria's interest to reach an understanding between Lebanese and Syrian officials on the specific status of these relations. The Soviet officials officially asserted to the French officials that they reject any step or measure by any party to curtail Lebanon's sovereignty or affect its independence and territorial integrity.

In a statement made on the eve of Scheer's recent tour of the region, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas was anxious to declare the reality and aims of the new French diplomatic move on Lebanon, stressing in particular that to solve the Lebanese problem, three essential goals must be achieved. They are:

1. To reach a cease-fire agreement and an understanding on a balanced settlement that includes a ban on arms deliveries to all Lebanese factions by air, land, or sea.

2. After a cease-fire is established, the issue of reforms in the Lebanese system can be discussed among the Lebanese themselves. The Lebanese must be able to reach an agreement on a new system that takes into consideration the aspirations of the deprived Lebanese quarters. Such an agreement should be acceptable to all Lebanese factions.

3. The withdrawal of Israeli and Syrian forces from Lebanon. The withdrawal of Israeli forces must take place through the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 425 which demands an Israeli withdrawal. The Syrian forces' withdrawal must be carried out according to a timetable. As a first stage, the Syrian forces would withdraw from Beirut and its surrounding area. This withdrawal must be simultaneous with the cease-fire.

At the same time, Dumas was anxious to stress in his statement that Syrian-French relations will not be good if Syria conditions Lebanon's sovereignty.

Well-informed French sources affirmed to AL-QABAS that French envoy Scheer's tour of the region has two aspects.

The first is the attempt to convince Syrian officials and Lebanese factions to accept a solution to the Lebanese crisis based on the points proposed by Roland Dumas. These points are in complete harmony with the plan of the tripartite Arab committee. At the same time, Syrian officials will be encouraged to accept the plan of the tripartite Arab committee and to cooperate with the committee to implement its plan.

The second part is to assert to the officials in the tripartite committee member states that France, other great powers, and the EC states are ready to extend all actual and practical support to the tripartite Arab committee and its plan if it is really interested in continuing its efforts and mission to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

USSR'S Tarasov in Lebanese Mediation

LD2708095589 Kuwait KUNA in English 0806 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Aug 27 (KUNA)—The Soviet Union is mediating between Damascus and Baghdad so that

repercussion of their differences would not affect the Lebanese crisis, according to a press report here Sunday.

The Abu-Dhabi based "AL-ITTIHAD" daily, quoting a senior official in Beirut, said that Soviet Assistant Foreign Minister Gennadiy Tarasov (?discussed) this issue with the Syrian leadership and delivered a message on this matter to President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The same sources told the paper that Tarasov will deliver a similar message to the Iraqi leadership during his visit to Baghdad in the next two days.

Other sources in Moscow confirmed to AL-ITTIHAD the Soviet mediations, saying that its success will prepare for a visit by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to Baghdad and Damascus to continue the effort.

Tarasov is currently in Damascus after visiting Beirut to discuss the Lebanese situation. He is scheduled to continue his efforts by visiting Amman, Jordan, Sunday.

Paper Interviews 'Awn on Military Escalation

JN3008084589 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
30 Aug 89 p 18

[Interview with General Michel 'Awn, head of the military government in Lebanon, by an unidentified AL-RA'Y correspondent; in Ba'abda Palace in Beirut—date not given]

[Text] AL-RA'Y: The first question that suddenly comes to mind is: Where is Lebanon now in the context of what is taking place around it after the recent military escalation, and in light of the French fleet's moves and the international support that was reportedly extended to the Tripartite Arab Committee to resume its peace mission in Lebanon?

'Awn: Certainly, the military escalation has reached its peak, particularly following the Suq al-Gharb battle, which has proved to all sides that we are committed to our right to defend ourselves and to our basic demand of liberating our territory, all our territory. We are ready to wage the battle of steadfastness and liberation to the end. I once again say: Do not ask me how long I will be able to continue with the "liberation march," but ask Syria how long it will continue to be able to stay in Lebanon under these circumstances.

Regarding the French fleet, I cannot but consider its moves as "support" for the restoration of free navigation to and from the Lebanese coast. Other than that, the units of this fleet may return from whence they came, or they may resort to force to carry out their assigned task. On my part, I do not deduce or need a commitment from anyone.

I have resorted to a means, which I consider suitable, to restore my country's sovereignty, and I am marching ahead. No one, whether from inside or outside, can stop this march, because I resort to the weapons of right and faith in the cause, and to my gun, army, and the support of the people and the volunteers, who joined the army. Therefore, if the international or regional initiatives want to be in conformity with me I welcome them, and if they advance ahead of me I will try to catch up with them. However, if they differ with me, then I will not be ready to wait for anyone.

Regarding the Arab initiative, I gave it all my support, and I will continue to do so. Still, based on its recent report in which it has determined the side that hampers its task and established the rights of the side that cooperates with it, it has to decide.

AL-RA'Y: Based on the logic of conflicts throughout history, there is a superpower, the United States, and two big regional powers, Syria and Israel, that are running the game in Lebanon, as you have said more than once. However, we recall that France, for example, could not have been liberated during World War II without the allies' landing on its territory. So, on whom does General 'Awn rely?

'Awn: We have changed this equation. We have relied on changing it. If we go back to 14 March, we will ask, where was Lebanon's position among the Arab states? It had no position. We have started with the Arab six-man committee as a small team, which, however, used to speak loudly and clearly, even though we had no position. However, we had a position on 14 March: a six-man committee, then a tripartite committee that resulted in "denouncing Syria." So, we have restored our position politically in the size of our independent country, which is a founding member of the United Nations and the Arab League. We relied on ourselves and changed the political and international stand. Had not this Lebanese stand, which I represent, been there, the Iraqi stand would not have supported us. In light of this, we have entrenched our existence. However, had we given a free rein to the game, no one would have recognized us, because no one invests his money in a bankrupt company. And today, no one should ask me where Lebanon has gone. In fact, he should ask what Syria has become in the eyes of the Arab states.

AL-RA'Y: On the hostage issue, we note two things: First, President al-Asad's letter to Austrian President Kurt Waldheim expressing his readiness to exert efforts to save the foreign hostages; second, the Revolutionary Justice Organization's threat to execute the hostages. If the French fleet arrives, do you believe that the hostage issue will be exploited in order to adopt a tougher political stand against you?

'Awn: The subject can be summed up as follows: The United States wants an excuse to continue its silence and to avoid its responsibilities. The hostage issue is a cover-up.

AL-RA'Y: Let us go back to the main subject. You said: We have shifted from the position of being a forgotten country to the position of a country whose cause is sponsored by Arab and western states; a country which

has regained its Arab and international legitimacy. But for how long will the area you are controlling today against a superior military machine and without political support remain steadfast?

'Awn: Lebanon was ignored for a while. However, today it is a very important balancing point. There has been no outside effect on the military situation. This is because we have remained steadfast. The Syrians and the Junblattists have tried to attack Suq al-Gharb three times since 14 March. The last attack was 2 weeks ago. And when we won the last battle, the world recognized our significance and ability. The force which took part in that battle has been exposed. On the two previous occasions, the 8th Brigade defended against the two attempts. In fact, it nipped them in the bud. So, they could not be judged as the third attempt.

AL-RA'Y: Why is it that the tripartite committee did not adhere to its previous decisions by criticizing the party obstructing its mission and forcing it to carry out its recommendations?

'Awn: We always hope for the best. This is the reality. International diplomatic moves are slow. This is why we need to remain strong and steadfast. Syria will try from time to time to create a new reality—hence the importance of our military strength, steadfastness, and political confrontation.

If you lose your steadfastness in war, the enemy will crush you even before your cause reaches international quarters. Your cause will be nullified by death—hence the importance of Suq al-Gharb and our steadfastness on all fronts. Syria has been blockading us from the sea and land for more than 6 months.

You will recall that the United States lost 7 percent of its energy imports due to the oil boycott after the October War in 1973. The Americans fought each other at gas stations. However, we have managed to import oil despite the tight 6-month blockade. But each drop of oil has cost us a drop of blood. Despite the blockade, we still move freely and live a normal life. Things are costly.

AL-RA'Y: I have read the tripartite committee's plan which proposes the transfer of authority to the cabinet and permits the president of the republic to attend cabinet meetings as a nonvoting member. What is your opinion on this reform plan?

'Awn: The reform plan should be discussed at a Lebanese roundtable. There is a Lebanese-Lebanese side to the issue. The Muslim and I would like to intermarry. Nobody should marry us. We are not in the Middle Ages. Let us meet at a roundtable in a free land. We are not transferring the powers of one board chairman to another. We are defining common values which we believe in. We want to legalize these common values for Christians and Muslims. We want a law guaranteeing our shares. Let me ask: Which is the aggrieved community? The Shiites? There are 120 first class posts in the state. Let the Shiites take them. What would we have gained? We would have given 120 posts to 120 people. What would the Shiite community have gained? It would have gained justice. Can we allow an error in matters concerning equitability and justice?

AL-RA'Y: Can we conclude that you are more Lebanese than Maronite?

'Awn: Yes, yes, yes because I have a different view of authority. My concept of reform also differs from the current one and from that of the school of thought that has dominated Lebanon since 1920 or 1943.

AL-RA'Y: What we ask you to do is to back your call for liberation with a clear-cut reformational program.

'Awn: I will not do that before the departure of those who came to destroy Lebanon. I will not lift the stone from the bottom of the valley to the peak of the mountain, because Syria will roll it again to the bottom. Syria has been playing this game for 15 years. The Damascus highway has been smoothed by those who go to Damascus and come back. We are fed up with the story of a U.S.-Syrian-sponsored reform. Let the foreign elements leave Lebanon, because their presence conflicts with the Arab League and UN charters. Only then can we reach an understanding with all the Lebanese.

AL-RA'Y: We are trying to instigate you [nuharriduka] to win the support of all the Lebanese.

'Awn: I invited them a long time ago to talk. Let them come and let them first meet and eat together before they talk about thorny principles. They are invited to come now.

AL-RA'Y: Do you reject the Tripartite Committee's reformational project?

'Awn: The Tripartite Committee has not proposed anything to me.

One of General 'Awn's aides who attended the interview said: This is newspaper talk.

General 'Awn interrupted him and said: Newspapers do not inform me of the Tripartite Committee resolutions. I briefed the committee on my concept of reform. It is recorded in my own voice.

AL-RA'Y: What is that concept?

'Awn: I will not publish it now, and I do not want to resort to oneupmanship. We are working seriously. There are messages. We have begun publishing them. We have published the two messages I have sent to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and the U.S. Congress last April. When the right time comes, I will publish them.

AL-RA'Y: Finally, would you mind if I ask you some quick personal questions that need quick answers?

'Awn: Yes, please.

AL-RA'Y: How do you view life?

'Awn: Life is nice and interesting if there is peace of mind.

AL-RA'Y: How do you view death?

'Awn: Inevitable and it is the only reality.

AL-RA'Y: How do you view happiness?

'Awn: It is an internal balance.

AL-RA'Y: How do you view success?

'Awn: Deceptive like defeat.

AL-RA'Y: Do you read?

'Awn: Recently, I have no time for that.

AL-RA'Y: Do you dream?

'Awn: Yes I do while awake.

AL-RA'Y: How do you do that as a leader?

'Awn: I have lived certain ideals, and I am trying to attain them.

AL-RA'Y: Are you a good husband?

'Awn: I believe so.

AL-RA'Y: Are you a winner?

'Awn: Always.

AL-RA'Y: What do you want?

'Awn: The lost peace of mind in Lebanon.

Hizballah Leader Queried on Lebanese Crisis

PM3008132489 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 28 Aug 89 p 13

[Interview with Hizballah spiritual leader Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah by Lucia Annunziata in West Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpt] West Beirut— [Annunziata] The pope, the Christians' highest authority, has spoken on the Lebanese crisis. What is your reaction to his statements?

[Fadlallah] We greatly value the interest which the pope has shown in Lebanon. But we would have preferred him to show more realism with regard to such a complex crisis. Indeed, the pope only spoke about Syria. He forgot that the cause of everything is the role played by Israel which caused the Palestinian tragedy, which is having harmful consequences throughout the Middle East.

[Annunziata] Can you explain that?

[Fadlallah] It was the Palestinian presence in Lebanon which caused the entry of Syrian troops. When the conflict started, Palestinians and nationalist Muslims were lined up on one side, and on the other there were the Christians, especially the Phalangists. At that point, Syria intervened to defend the Christians and was welcomed by them with great satisfaction. They saw the Syrian troops as a force which could counterbalance the Palestinians.

[Annunziata] But things have changed greatly since then.

[Fadlallah] They certainly have. The alliances have changed in succession. The Christians came under Israel's protection and only then was the Syrian presence in Lebanon given legitimacy by the Arab countries. It is therefore impossible to talk about Syria without talking about Israel. Therefore, if the pope had talked about the destruction of the Muslim regions with the same force that he used to talk about the destruction of the Christian regions, we would have said: "He has spoken prophetically." But he did not do so. In short, we would have preferred the pope to rise to the level of higher impartiality which befits him. However, we do not think that Wojtyla is entirely to blame. The blame probably rests with his advisers who concealed part of the truth from him. And we are therefore emphasizing our invitation to the pope to visit West Beirut. We are prepared to give him full safety guarantees so that he can visit our hospitals and see the people wounded by the Christian bombs. This will make him realize that the Christians have not behaved in a Christian way toward West Beirut. Similarly, we believe that those who are firing on East Beirut are not respecting Islam's precepts.

[Annunziata] However, the Lebanese conflict has again raised the problem of the threat to the Christian community in the Middle East. Is there a danger of this minority being destroyed?

[Fadlallah] I do not really think so. There is no threat. I do not think there is any threat to the Christian communities or to the Jewish communities, at least if you rule out the threats involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Those who speak of threats fear the growth of the Muslim world. And it is wrong to fear our growth. You just have to see how things function in the country which is our guide.

[Annunziata] Do you mean that there are no threats to the non-Shiite minorities in Iran?

[Fadlallah] Precisely. Iran is the country which guides Muslim fundamentalism. And yet in that country there are no threats of any kind to Christians' freedom of religion and lifestyle. Furthermore, Christian and Jewish minorities continue to exist in all the Islamic countries. In those countries, the Christians have more influence and more rights than the Muslims have in European countries like France and Britain. Coexistence with the "people of the Book" has been part of the very essence of our religion for 14 centuries. Islam regards the Bible and the Gospels as God's books; it gives great value to Christ's role and to that of Mary, his mother. The Muslims regard Christianity, Judaism, and Islam as one product of the divine Messiah. And that is why we are more open and prepared for religious peace in the world. The lack of these ideas makes Christians and Jews into

narrow-minded fanatics. However, Islam is still inviting the "people of the Book" to engage in dialogue without preconditions on all points of disagreement. Everything can be settled because Islam is rational.

[Annunziata] But how can all this be applied to the Lebanese situation?

[Fadlallah] Lebanon is a political problem with a religious overtone. I am not saying that the Christians are oppressing the Muslims. But a Christian minority—the Maronites—is oppressing both the Muslims and other Christians of different sects. I am sure that if there were a free referendum on this question, the non-Maronite Christians would have more complaints to make than the Muslims.

[Annunziata] Is the Maronite "oppression" really so bad?

[Fadlallah] The Maronites have a monopoly of power. The violence which exists in Lebanon does not have religious roots. It is part of the Middle East conflict for the conquest of power and it is ferociously expressed among the Christians and among the Muslims.

[Annunziata] Are you saying that it is still possible to find a political agreement on the Lebanese conflict and on the Arab-Israeli conflict?

[Fadlallah] There is a great difference between the two wars. The Lebanese war is being fought between Christians and Muslims who have the same homeland. Their disagreement is on what kind of state should govern them. The nature of this conflict is therefore very simple.

[Annunziata] However, what about the Arab-Israeli conflict?

[Fadlallah] This is certainly a complex problem. It stems from the fact that the majority of the population of a land, both Christian and Muslim, were expelled. Israel is illegal. A state cannot be founded on the expulsion of a whole population. Could the Italians or Spanish accept expulsion by somebody who had inhabited their land 2,000 years ago? The conflict can be solved only when the Palestinians can return home and when the Jews go back where they came from.

[Annunziata] However, Palestinian leader 'Arafat has recognized Israel.

[Fadlallah] Perhaps some Palestinians are thinking in terms of "realpolitik" and are convinced that winning back part of Palestine will be easier than winning it all back. But 'Arafat can only control the present, not the future.

[Annunziata] Let us return to Lebanon. What does the Syrian presence mean for the Lebanese Muslims?

[Fadlallah] There are international interests, especially U.S. interests, for which Lebanon is the source of the strategies which are exported throughout the region. If Syria decided to withdraw now, these powers—the United States, the USSR, and some European nations—would intervene to prevent it from doing so. Indeed, too many balances would be upset by that. As Lebanese, we would like to solve the situation with our own forces. But we cannot stand alone against Israel, at least while other powers continue to support Israel.

[Annunziata] Iran, the country which is your guide, now seems to be moving toward new moderate positions. Is this true? If it were true, would you follow it?

[Fadlallah] I do not think that the revolution's principles are being revised. Like all revolutions, including the French Revolution, the Islamic Revolution did not have a realistic line at first. At that time it served to create a state, it produced a mobilization, a new religious way of thinking and living, with the aim of winning Muslim autonomy and independence from the superpowers. The oppressed have to learn to defeat their oppressors. The methods followed at the beginning were therefore linked with these objectives and with the war. But the war is now over and the concept of independence has been fully assimilated from the East to the West. The new phase which should now be reached is the normalization of relations with the rest of the world. This is a new phase which has nothing to do with the change of leadership. I remember that it was Khomeyni who reopened relations with Gorbachev's USSR and who suggested improving relations with the United States.

[Annunziata] But, in the phase which you describe as over, the Western hostages were kidnapped. Will anything change now with the new phase?

[Fadlallah] A serious problem like that of the hostages cannot be linked to a particular situation. If the problem is examined calmly, it is clear that this is one of the key ideas of the struggle between oppressors and oppressed, whatever the morality of the methods used. And morality is not an unambiguous concept in the world.

[Annunziata] To sum up, according to you there are two obstacles to peaceful coexistence among peoples: Israel's existence and the hostages. What can be done to eliminate these obstacles?

[Fadlallah] I do not see how these problems can be put on the same level. Israel is an illegal state, an absolutely unprecedented case in the world. The hostage question, however, has a limited political dimension which stems from special political circumstances. And I think that it is still possible to solve the hostage question if those who have control over the hostages are able to exercise it well.

[Annunziata] Is there then some hope for the hostages?

[Fadlallah] I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to all those who are involved to rapidly close this chapter which is primarily humanitarian in nature. We know from experience that most of the problems which mobilize the superpowers have very little to do with humanitarian questions.

But we feel solidarity with the hostages because we have human feelings. Of course, the situation is so complex that it requires a balanced, realistic attitude which is free from rhetoric. But if everybody acts appropriately, if everybody really wants to end the hostage problem, I think that a positive conclusion can be reached soon.

Al-Huss Opposes International Peace Conference

LD2908121189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1127 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Rome, Aug 29 (KUNA)—Lebanese acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss Tuesday affirmed that his country is insisting on "Arab resolution" of its political crisis.

Interviewed by the Italian daily "LA REPUBBLICA", published Tuesday, the Lebanese leader emphasized that the idea of convening an international conference on lebanon was "irrealistic" and it means waiting ten years to bring together Lebanese rival factions to the negotiating table.

Dr Al-Huss hoped that the Lebanese ordeal be resolved before the so-called international conference, "because we do not want our affairs become a material for international exchanges and consequently hold us hostages of complicated relations among the super powers." [sentence as received]

He also feared that, through such a conference, an international peace keeping force may be imposed on the Lebanese and lead to dividing the country into two parts.

Al-Huss stressed that Lebanon's plight was not a Muslim-Christian dispute, nor it was a conflict between Gen 'Awn "who came to the political scene only few months ago," and Salim al-Huss, but it was a question of political reforms.

He stated that the Soviet envoy, Assistant Foreign Minister for Mideast Affairs Gennadiy Tarasov, who was in Beirut and currently visiting Iraq, is exerting intesive efforts trying to stabilize a ceasefire, lift [word indistinct] blockades and create appropriate atmosphere to enable the Arab League's Supreme Committee to resume its peace endeavours in Lebanon.

Fadlallah Views Pope's Visit, Dumas' Plan

NC2908160389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] The papal nuncio to Lebanon today said that the pope has not set a date for his visit to Lebanon—the pope has merely expressed his wish to visit that country.

Meanwhile, scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadallah said that the pope's visit to Lebanon cannot possibly resolve the constitutional crisis in that country. Fadlallah told REUTER that the Lebanese crisis is too complicated to be resolved by such a visit.

Scholar Fadlallah said that no progress, however meager, has been achieved toward a solution in Lebanon. He added: Had the French been as unrestrained in their military policies as they are in their politics and propaganda, they would have been confronted one way or the other. Fadlallah said that Roland Dumas' plan was more of a propaganda ploy aimed at French public opinion than a plan for solution in Lebanon.

Shiite Leader Opposes Pope's Visit to Lebanon

LD3008134289 Rome ANSA in English 1220 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] (ANSA) Milan, August 30—Nabih Birri, head of the Shiite Amal movement in Lebanon, said in an interview to the Milan daily, CORRIERE DELLA SERA, that he would be "always ready" to receive Pope John Paul II, should he come to Beirut, but that he does not think this is the appropriate time for a visit. The pope has expressed the wish to visit Lebanon some time in the near future.

In the interview, published on Wednesday, Birri said divisions between warring factions could be increased by the pope's visit, especially because Christian forces led by General Michel 'Awn "would feel justified in intensifying their struggle, and the Vatican would remain involved in local tensions, losing its aura of impartiality."

Birri said he is in no way willing to negotiate with 'Awn, "neither now nor in ten years' time," adding that "the only possible way to peace was traced at the Arab summit in Casablanca last May."

He also said his militias will fire against French warships, "just as they would against any other foreign force which tried to intervene in our domestic affairs," and that he will ask French Envoy Francois Scheer that his country "not behave with Lebanon as if it were a 19th century colonial power."

British Airways Receives Bomb Threat in Cairo

NC3008113789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] The authorities concerned will conduct a thorough search of a British Airways plane in an isolated area at Cairo Airport this afternoon after having been informed that the American Broadcasting Company office in Cairo has received a telephone call on behalf of a fundamentalist Muslim organization. The caller asserted that an explosive device was planted in the plane. According to the caller, the device was planted to protest what he described as the torture of Muslim prisoners in Egypt.

Israelis Conduct 'Unusual' Military Moves in South

NC3008171789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] According to security reports from Hasbayya, the Zionist occupation forces sent troops to the Ibil al-Saqy

valley and Hasbayya in the past 24 hours. The enemy dispatched two armored convoys into Lebanese territory. The first convoy, made up of 10 Centurion and Merkava tanks, passed through the Metulla crossing yesterday morning. An infantry force in civilian and military vehicles accompanied the convoy to provide protection.

The second convoy, made up of 15 tanks and half-track vehicles transported on trucks, entered Lebanon at 1700 yesterday. The vehicles were deployed in the al-Ahmadiyah hills, Kawkaba, Zaghlah, and 'Ayn Qinya. Senior officers of the so-called northern command of the occupation supervised the deployment.

Meanwhile, unusual military moves were observed on al-Hasbani-Kawkaba line. Six M-113 troop carriers took up positions this morning on the banks of the al-Hasbani River and ('Ayn 'Ulayl).

Last night and this morning, occupation forces fired dozens of artillery shells along the banks of the al-Litani River and in the vicinity of the townships of Mashgharah, 'Ayn al-Tinah, al-Dallafah, and Jabal al-Dahr, setting off fires in fields and orchards.

In another development, a joint Zionist-Lahd force surounded Shib'a yesterday afternoon, searched 10 homes, and arrested several inhabitants.

Shells Explode Near Scheer-Shams-Al-Din Meeting

NC3008210389 Paris AFP in English 2033 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Beirut, Aug 30 (AFP)—Two civilians were killed and 41 wounded Wednesday during the fiercest shelling in a fortnight, according to a new toll given by police.

Tanks battled across Beirut's demarcation line, forcing the close of the sole crossing between Christian and Moslem sectors of the Lebanese capital and scattering pedestrians and motorists in panic.

Two civilians were killed and 30 others wounded in Christian districts and nine wounded in Moslem areas when clashes with automatic weapons and mortars along Beirut's demarcation line spilled over into residential neighborhoods, police said.

Two pro-Syrian Lebanese soldiers were also hurt in Moslem areas, police said.

The shelling, the most violent since August 17, continued intermittently in the evening.

French envoy Francois Scheer, French Foreign Ministry secretary general, meanwhile met pro-Syrian Druze leader Walid Junblatt and the spiritual leaders of Lebanon's three main religious communities: Sunni, Shiite, and Maronite Christian.

Well-informed sources here said Mr Scheer, who arrived Tuesday in Lebanon, has diminished fears among Moslems and Syrian supporters, who had blasted France for sending a fleet of warships last week toward the coast of Lebanon.

Mr Scheer is expected to leave Thursday for Riyadh.

Five shells exploded outside the west Beirut apartment of Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, spiritual leader of Lebanon's Shiite Moslem community, as he was meeting Mr Scheer, correspondents said.

The men continued their talks in the relative safety of the stairwell.

At least 743 people have been killed and 3,429 wounded, almost all civilians, since Christian premier General Michel 'Awn declared March 14 a "war of liberation" against an estimated 35,000 Syrian troops in two-thirds of Lebanon. Syria backs a rival, Moslem administration of Salim al-Huss.

Skirmishes Continue; Syrian Tank Destroyed

NC3008150989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Intermittent skirmishes involving the use of machineguns, rockets, and artillery are continuing on the combat lines in the capital, southern suburb, and the mountain. [passage omitted] Two shells fell on the presidential palace at 1500, while mortar and tank shells were fired at the army's positions in Suq al-Gharb at 1515. The museum crossing was reopened at 1320.

Clashes involving the use of artillery and tanks took place in the area of Dahr al-Wahsh at 1650. A Syrian tank was destroyed in Duhur al-'Abbadiyah.

Syrian Artillary Resumes Shelling Eastern Areas

NC3108064089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Syrian artillery shelling of the eastern areas resumed this morning. Intermittent shell fire has been directed at Kafr Shima, al-Hadath, B'abda, al-Antuniyah, al-Hazimiyah, Jumhur, and 'Arayya since 0600 today.

We have just learned that clashes are taking place on the Ra's al-Nab' and al-Barjawi confrontation lines. The outskirts of al-Ashrafiyah are coming under mortar fire. [passage omitted]

Amal Radio Details Results of 30 Aug Clashes

NC3108063889 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] The clashes, which eased on the confrontation lines as of midnight last night, became violent again at

0615 today, especially on the Ra's al-Nab' and al-Shuwayfat lines, with shells falling on neighboring residential area.

The round of violence in both sectors of the capital last night left four people dead and 47 others wounded, according to a preliminary count.

The mad shelling, which began shortly after 2000 last night and became violent between 2130 and midnight involved the areas of al-Awza'i, the airport road, Burj al-Barajinah, the fringes of Harat Hurayk, al-Maramil, the vicinity of the Kuwaiti Embassy, al-Janah, Bi'r Hasan, al-Hursh, Sabra, the stadium, Qasqas, al-Barbir, Cola, al-Musaytibah, al-Nuwayrah, Ra's al-Nab', the Arab University, UNESCO, al-Ramlah al-Bayda', al-Manarah, Summerland, Mar 'Ilyas, al-Tariq al-Jadidah, and al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq.

We have been informed that fires broke out in the vicinity of the Arab University, al-Ramlah al-Bayda', al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq, and al-Manarah.

In the mountain, the city of 'Alayh and the areas of al-Shuwayfat, 'Aramun, 'Aytat, al-Ma'rufiyah, Kayfun, Baysur, Duhur al-'Ibadiyah, Shwit, and some villages on the western coast have come under violent shelling. The shelling also involved the area of Shtawrah in al-Biqa' as well as Upper and Northern al-Matn, Bulunya, and al-Muruj.

The media in the eastern area have reported that shells fell on the central part and coast of al-Matn, the Karawan coast, al-Futuh, al-Hadath, Bsaba, and al-Ashrafiyah last night. The media also indicated that the areas of B'abda, al-Hadath, and Kafr Shima came under shelling this morning.

Heavy Shelling, Fierce Clashes Take Place 31 Aug

NC3108085189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Heavy artillery shelling is continuing against the B'abda and al-Hadath areas. Clashes are taking place on the traditional confrontation lines in Beirut and the southern Suburb, and on the Dahr al-Wahsh front, which earlier was the scene of a violent exchange of fire accompanied by shelling against 'Arayya and al-Kahhalah.

A short while ago, a rocket launcher in 'Aramun fired its rockets at al-Hazimiyah, al-Mansuriyah, and the central northern al-Matn. Violent clashes have also resumed on the combat lines of Suq al-Gharb, Dahr al-Wahsh, 'Aytat, 'Alayh, al-Ma'rufiyah, Bsaba, Kafr Shima, and al-Shuwayfat.

Reuter News Agency has quoted West Beirut sources as saying that the blockade of the eastern area will continue until General Michel 'Awn announces an end to his liberation war and observers are deployed in eastern area ports to prevent weapons from being imported.

Violent Clashes Rage; 5 Wounded in 31 Aug

NC3108085589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Excerpts] According to the latest security reports, violent clashes are raging on the confrontation lines in the mountain, accompanied by artillery shelling. Shells are falling on areas close to the confrontation lines.

We have been learned that a number of shells fell on Burj al-Barajinah area a short time ago. Shells are also falling on Baysur, Kayfun, 'Aytat, 'Ayn 'Nub, al-Ma'rufiyah, Shimlan, and al-Shuwayfat.

The continuing shelling of the residential areas this morning left five people wounded.

Meanwhile, the [Museum-al-Barbir] crossing is open to pedestrians and cars. There is heavy traffic on it at present.

2 Killed, 11 Injured in 31 Aug Shelling

NC3108095889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Intermittent clashes involving mortars are taking place on the Ra's al-Nab', Sodeco, and Primo confrontation lines. In the area of Harat Hurayk in Beirut's Southern Suburb, which came under shelling at approximately 1030 today, a number of people were wounded. Meanwhile, guarded calm is prevailing on the Ra's al-Jabal-'Alayh confronttion lines in the mountain, while intermittent clashes are taking place on the al-Shuwayfat-Kafr Shima line.

The areas of Qabr Shmun and al-Binnay Road came under tank gunfire shortly after 1000.

In the continuous shelling of some parts of Beirut's Southern Suburb and West Beirut this morning, two people were martyred, including Muhammad Husayn Abu-Nasif, who was taken to the al-Sahil Hospital. At least 11 others were wounded. [passage omitted]

Resistance Alerted to Israeli Warplanes

NC3108094989 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Zionist warplanes flew over the al-Biqa' area at high altitude at 1010 today. The resistance fighters were put on general alert as a precaution against any eventuality.

'Violent' Clashes Continue on Al-Shuwayfat Lines

NC3108060289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] The escalation in the security situation proves that it is impossible to achieve a settlement without toppling 'Awn and bringing him to trial as a war criminal. Yesterday morning the al-Yarzah militias began this escalation, which continued until this morning.

Violent clashes are still taking place on the al-Shuwayfat confrontation lines. Residential neighborhoods in the town have been coming under shell fire from heavy artillery and tank guns since 0330 today.

Mountain, Beirut Areas Under Bombardment

NC3008192389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] The 'Awn clique has expanded its artillery bombardment. Since 2140, shells have been falling on Shtawrah and its vicinity. Residential areas in 'Alayh, the vicinity of 'Aramun, and some villages along the coast have been coming under intensive shelling since 2000.

We have just been informed that the towns of 'Aytat and al-Ma'rufiyah are coming under artillery fire. Some residential areas in West Beirut are also being bombarded. A fire has broken out in the area of the Arab University.

East Beirut Areas Under Attack; 6 Wounded

NC3008064889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Excerpts] According to latest security reports, violent clashes involving heavy-caliber weapons raged along the al-Tayyunah- Mazda lines at approximately 0700 this morning. The adjacent residential areas in 'Ayn al-Rummanah and Furn al-Shubbak came and are still coming under intermittent mortar fire. Shells have also been landing in al-Hadath and al-Hazimiyah since 0720.

Therefore, citizens residing in the vicinity of the suburb's combat lines must be cautious.

The areas of 'Ayn al-Rummanah, Furn al-Shubbak and the peripheries of al-Ashrafiyah and B'abda came under intermittent shellfire at dawn today. Meanwhile, intermittent clashes were raging along the lines in the mountain, the suburb, and the capital.

For 3 hours starting at dawn, the coasts of the eastern area came under Syrian artillery fire. The Jubayl Coast started to come under attack by Syrian emplacements in West Beirut and the north at 0120. The scope of attack was later expanded to include residential areas in Jubayl, the northern al-Matn Coast, and residential areas in Kasrawan. The Jubayl Coast kept coming under intermittent shellfire from 0430 until 0520. A number of fires broke out in the region. [passage omitted]

We would like to note that residential areas adjacent to the combat lines in 'Ayn al-Rummanah are still coming under mortar fire. As a result of shellfire attacks against al-Hadath this morning, six wounded people have been taken to the Sainte Teres Hospital. One of them is seriously wounded. [passage omitted]

VOL Reports Clashes in Beirut Areas

NC3008095589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Clashes involving rockets and machineguns broke out along the al-Barjawi-Museum-racetrack line in the capital around 1210.

Meanwhile, intermittent clashes continue along the Mazda-post office-al-Matahin line. Sniper fire is also reported in the areas close to the combat lines in 'Ayn al-Rummanah.

Fighting Resumes; 'Maritime Target' Attacked

NC3008085189 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0830 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Residential areas in the southern suburb have been coming under fierce attacks since 0600 today. Clashes resumed along the combat lines of al-Shiyah and 'Ayn al-Rummanah a short while ago. Shells are now falling on nearby residential areas. Various weapons are being used in the fighting.

In another development, the Army Command's Guidance Directorate in Beirut issued the following communique today: At 0100 today, our artillery directed fire at a maritime target off the Tabarja Coast to prevent arms and ammunition from arriving in the eastern areas.

Al-'Imadi Speaks at Damascus Fair Inauguration

JN2808185989 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1638 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Speech delivered by Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, on the opening of the 36th session of Damascus International Fair in Damascus on 28 August—live]

[Excerpts] Respectable guests and esteemed audience: Today, we are gathered to celebrate the 36th session of the Damascus International Fair. I am also pleased with and honored by President struggler Hafiz al-Asad, who patronized this celebration and asked me to open this session. He also asked that I convey to you his warm welcome of our brothers, the ministers and the heads of the delegations of Arab fraternal and friendly countries participating in the fair; his greetings and wishes that you will enjoy staying in our country; and his eagerness to promote ties of brotherhood, friendship, and economic and scientific relations with your esteemed countries. [passage omitted]

This, O gentlemen, will be achieved only under the canopy of real peace among nations. Real peace, as affirmed by our president, is a pressing and necessary need for all nations in the world. Real peace is the one that is based on securing nations' rights and the absence of the sense of injustice. While world peace in our age is an ideal goal of mankind and while governments adopt it and nations struggle to achieve it, we can affirm that world peace can never be achieved without a just peace. How can peace prevail while our kinfolk in the occupied territories every day taste the severest kinds of torture and persecution and our brothers in Lebanon are being exposed to plots aimed at dividing and fragmenting the country?

O gentlemen, conflict in the Middle East, as our president put it, is part of the larger conflict in the world between right and wrong and between nations struggling against all kinds of injustice and the forces hostile to the nations. We believe that the final victory will be achieved by the forces of right and goodness. Arab Syria, under President Hafiz al-Asad, supports the forces of right and goodness. It appreciates every nation's struggle to gain its rights for its economic and social progress.

Under the current circumstances, Syria also stands on the principal frontline against the Arab nation's enemies, who want to divide it and try to support its major enemy represented in Zionism and its tool, Israel, which threatens the Arab nation's security; occupies Palestine, Golan, and southern Lebanon; and uses every repressive action against our Palestinian people in Palestine and the rest of the occupied Arab territories in order to continue occupation; to try to disrupt Lebanon; and to ignite the fire of sectarian sedition among its people, exploiting some sectarian and isolationist forces to destroy Lebanon's unity; threaten Syria's national security, and the pan-Arab security.

O gentlemen, Arab Syria considers the Palestine question and the liberation of the occupied Arab territories its central cause and exerts every effort to mobilize its energies and those of the Arab nation in order to achieve this goal and to guarantee victory for the heroic Palestinian people's intifadah [uprising] and for the Palestinian people's right to total liberation of their lands. Arab Syria firmly supports the Arab people in Lebanon in achieving their goal in preserving Lebanon's unity and Arab affiliation and in achieving national accord among its people on the basis of political reform, which can guarantee equality among all factions and sects of the Lebanese people.

Therefore, it is our country's fate to continue the struggle, and our country will also continue its policy of achieving a just peace by moving toward achieving a strategic parity as a complete concept based on building a society that is able to grow and develop in all walks of life and a society that is able to liberate the Arab land, achieve unity, and contribute to human civilization. [passage omitted]

On the economic front, the gross national product [GNP] data for 1988 proved the good results of following the policies of the ministerial statement. This GNP increased by 41 billion Syrian pounds as compared with 1987. This increase was achieved in the fields of extraction industry, agriculture, building, construction, transport, communications, storage, and trade in an essential manner.

The capital formation amounted to 25.8 billion [currency not specified], in addition to the oil exploration and development investments carried out by oil companies evaluated at hundreds of millions of dollars. Our country continued to develop agriculture with the aim of achieving food security within the framework of comprehensive rural development. Concentration centered on putting water resources to good use and horizontal development in irrigated agriculture. Some 14,690 hectares of land have been included in the agricultural development in al-Balikh basin, Maskanah Gharb, the lower Euphrates, 16 October Dam, and Salah-al-Din Dam. New areas will be alloted in the 1989/90 agricultural season amounting to 33,615 hectares, in addition to an area of 12,000 hectares which have been cultivated by the private sector financed by the agricultural bank.

Work this year ended on the Babiri, northern al-Kabir, and Yarmuk Rivers pumping stations. Work has also been completed on the two dams of eastern and western al-Hasakah. The plan guaranteed providing the needs for production. The effect of the price policies and the other incentives was positive concerning the producers of strategic crops. The marketing measures also prevented any suffocation of the market. The agricultural credit policies contributed clearly toward providing the needs for planting crops and setting up medium- and long-range agricultural projects after amending the requirements agenda in line with the practical reality of investment costs.

The policies of allowing the importation of all agricultural investment and production requirements, encouraging exportation of agricultural produce, and selling them at the prevalent discount rate in the neighboring countries, had a great effect on supporting and activating the agricultural role and increasing the income of its producer.

Within the framework of the industrial sector, concentration is on increasing production, entrenching the role of the general industrial sector, encouraging the work of the private and joint sectors, producing the local raw materials, and producing goods of high and special quality with the intention of increasing exportation.

Concerning the electricity sector, the Suwaydiyah generating plant was established with a capacity of 150 megawatts functioning on natural gas. The Banyas generating plant was also expanded by adding two groups of generation, each with a capacity of 170 megawatts. Work continues on the October station, in cooperation with the Soviet Union to establish and mount two groups of generating plants with each group having a capacity of 200 megawatts. Work has also been started to establish three gas turbines in al-Tayyim fields to function on associated gas.

Despite the increased energy production from thermal stations during the first half of 1989, holding the water resources [habs al-mawarid al-ma'iyah] in the Euphrates, especially in spring and the second quarter of 1989—the flood season—led to a decrease in the produced energy from the al-Thawrah electricity generation plant to less than 10 percent of the provided energy production. This led to a deficit in the balance of demand for energy and the energy available. We hope to overcome this problem as soon as possible by close cooperation with the concerned sides.

Concerning the oil sector, while production from the old fields continues, the new discoveries have enabled a gradual increase in the production of light oil through setting the first stages of production of the 'Umar, Tayyanah, al-Tanak, northern 'Umar, and 'Izbah oil fields. This led to an increase in the production of light oil. Developing these fields, implementing water retention projects, developing the new discoveries in Sijan, 'Akkash, Sarhit, al-Raqqah, and the expansions in al-'Azbah and al-Tanak fields, have all led to doubling the daily production average of light oil where this is realized gradually along with implementing the projects of developing these fields.

At the same time as exploration work continues in the Syrian Petroleum Company and the developmental work in the Dayr al-Zawr area by the al-Furat Company, 11 contracted services companies are carrying out surveillance and exploration in various regions of the country. Most of these companies will start digging in 1989, that is, this year. Other companies whose contracts were signed in 1989 are carrying out land survey and prospection in preparation for digging which is expected to start in 1990.

The work of these companies in a wide area of the country will lead to accelerating new oil and gas discoveries in light of the hydrocarbon resources, the results of which proved their existence in the country.

In the field of gas, treated gas needed for energy continued to be produced from the (al-Jubaysah) and (al-Rumaylan) fields. The Syrian Petroleum Company executed a project to develop the (al-Tirasi) gas field in Suwaydiyah to provide the gas needed for the gas-electric generating station there.

During the past year, agreements were signed to utilize the associated gas in the oil fields in the Dayr al-Zawr and Damascus areas. These agreements will allow the utilization of the associated gas, and pumping it to the sites of consumption in Damascus. Another agreement was also signed under which oil fields in Palmyra area will be developed after the gas reserves in this area are determined. According to the same agreement, pipelines will be built to carry the gas from these areas to the Muhradah and Baniyas stations and to the cement factory in Tartus.

In light of the explorations made by the Syrian Petroleum Company and the new discoveries, and after gas reserves in the central area were rechecked, the production capacity of these fields will double. [passage omitted]

In foreign trade, the exports and imports committee, chaired by the prime minister, continued to follow up the execution of the public sector's export plan. It also endeavored to take the measures necessary to encourage and achieve equilibrium, and provide the country with new resources to finance its needs and pay its foreign obligations.

There are indications ushering in good news and success. Total exports during the first 6 months of 1989, which amounted to 14,740 million liras, are approximately equal to the country's total exports during the whole of 1988, which amounted to 15,191 million liras.

The private sector's contribution in exports increased from 22.0 percent in 1987 to 36.6 percent in 1988 and to 44.0 percent during the first half of 1989.

In view of the nature of the goods which are being dealt with and in view of the agreements signed and the existing obligations, 42.1 percent of our foreign trade is made with industrial states and 34.6 percent with the socialist bloc countries. However, our imports from industrial states are 3.35 times our exports to these countries while our exports to the socialist bloc countries are 4 times our imports. The volume of our foreign trade with the fraternal Arab states is 12.7 percent and with the Third World countries 10.6 percent.

The efforts exerted to regulate import and employing it in the service of production, as well as the efforts to increase agricultural and industrial production and the achievements scored in the fields of oil and gas have begun to give positive results on the trade balance which became positive during the first half of this year with 556 million Syrian liras.

In the field of encouraging production initiatives—individual and collective, the progress in the private sector's role in exports which I mentioned, and the increase in the number of the licensed industrial projects, which increased from 1,596 projects valued at 528 million Syrian liras in 1985 to 3,654 projects valued at 5,967 million Syrian liras during the first half of 1989; and the expansion in the areas allocated for investment in the Syrian free zones during the first half of this year, which increased by about 83 percent from the areas licensed during last year—all this is a clear proof on the potential positive energies within the classes of our working people. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Iraqi 'Arab Solution' in Lebanon

JN3008150689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: It seems that the phrase "an Arab solution to the Lebanese crisis" has turned into a banner used even by those who have been against such a solution from the beginning. The Arab citizen has been confused by what this phrase means after parties which have nothing to do with Arabism and the Arabs—such as the Saddam regime and some international forces—have begun to use the phrase and exploit it to serve purposes alien to the real Arab identity of such a solution.

The Arab solution, as understood by the Arab citizen and as translated by the Casablanca summit resolutions, is a solution based on viewing the Arabism of Lebanon as a guarantee to prevent the strengthening of the influence of Israel and its tools in Lebanon; and as a guarantee against attempts to subject it to the will of colonialist forces or to Israeli hegemony; or to attach it to the strategic designs of Zionism. Such a solution must be based on the rebuilding of national and constitutional institutions in this country on the basis of new reconciliatory reforms that ensure that one Lebanese faction does not dominate the others. It was this kind of domination that allowed the hegemony of Israel's tools to materialize inside the country and which assisted their attempts to bring Lebanon into the Israeli strategy.

However, the enemies of the concept of the Arab solution—as translated by the Casablanca summit resolutions—have stood publicly and unequivocally against this concept of the Arab solution. Foremost among the parties which have publicly announced their enmity toward this concept is the Iraqi regime. Before the ink was dry on the summit resolutions, this regime's foreign minister, Tariq 'Aziz, hastened to assail and criticize the summit and its resolutions. This regime has not been content with the issuance of statements and announcements. No—it asked General 'Awn to explode the security situation in Lebanon with the aim of torpedoing these resolutions. In addition, it put pressure on this or that Arab country to make them espouse its own peculiar concept of a solution—the concept based on hostility toward Syria and its pan-Arab presence in Lebanon.

The Arab tripartite committee's announcement that it had reached a dead end was mainly caused by pressures exerted by the Saddam regime to impose its malicious concept of a solution on the committee. This proves that instead of urging the committee to resume its efforts, this regime continues to say that the committee's efforts have become a thing of the past. How are we to expect the Saddam regime to encourage the committee to revive its efforts, considering that this regime works day and night to abort the endeavors of the committee? The Saddam regime sees the ending of the Arab committee's efforts as the final demise of the Casablanca summit resolutions—resolutions which it has opposed from the beginning and has tried by every means to kill. In other words, this regime has continued to misuse the banner of an Arab solution while doing everything to thwart a genuine Arab solution and to focus Arab efforts on hostility toward Syria and its pan-Arab presence in Lebanon.

To consecrate the death of this concept of an Arab solution, Saddam continues to call for a new Arab summit to abolish the Casablanca summit resolutions and to issue new resolutions that would make no contribution whatsoever to a solution to the Lebanese crisis. Such resolutions are meant to express the full extent of this regime's rancor against Syria. Therefore, the Saddam regime's call for a new Arab summit is not designed to adopt new resolutions that would terminate the Zionist infiltration into Lebanon, end the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, and consecrate a national solution guaranteeing the Arab identity of Lebanon. The sole objective behind the regime's call for such a summit is to bring about the adoption of a new concept of the Arab solution—a concept that would reflect this regime's hatred toward Syria and its pan-Arab role in Lebanon. We in Syria reaffirm Syria's commitment and adherence to the Arab solution as sincerely expressed in the Casablanca summit resolutions. At the same time, we warn the enemies of the Arab solution, the enemies of Arabism who allegedly claim to be its staunch advocates, that their attempts are doomed to failure. Syria's hand will always remain extended to all those who seek to keep the banner of real Arabism planted in Lebanese territory.

French Envoy Talks With Al-Asad in Damascus

PM3008150889 Paris LE MONDE in French 30 Aug 89 p 5

[Francoise Chipaux dispatch: "Arab Tripartite Committee Asked by All Sides To Resume Mission"]

[Excerpt] Beirut—The proposed solution to the Lebanese crisis presented in Paris by Roland Dumas, which

has not been welcomed by Syria's allies in Lebanon, was not the subject of any commentary in Damascus when French Government envoy Francois Scheer was received on Monday 28 August by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and then by President Hafiz al-Asad, to whom he handed a message from Francois Mitterrand.

In this connection, a source close to Damascus said that Mr Scheer's visit to the Syrian capital was also aimed at easing Franco-Syrian tension. Mr Scheer, who said nothing about the content of his talks, said that he had confirmed to Mr al-Shar' that the French action was "still resolutely aimed at peace, and that it was being continued to ensure that a cease-fire is established, that the blockades are lifted, and that intra-Lebanese dialogue is resumed." "The only possible solution in Lebanon is a political solution, and this cannot be achieved without Syria's active help," the French envoy added.

Stressing the Arab League's and France's similar aims, Mr Scheer also said: "We ardently hope that the tripartite committee will rapidly resume its mission."

In Damascus, the Syrian press and radio also stressed the need for "a political solution" which must be found "by the Arabs."

It was on this subject that Salim al-Huss, leader of the Muslim Lebanese Government, criticized Mr Dumas' statements on Monday, saying that by putting forward this peace plan—a cease-fire, political reforms, withdrawal of Israeli and Syrian troops—France is presupposing the failure of the triumvirate chosen to settle the crisis—"a hypothesis which we refuse to contemplate and which the French Government should also reject." "We reject any alternative to the Arab initiative for a solution in Lebanon," Mr al-Huss also said, before adding: "We respect the Casablanca summit resolutions."

Moreover, in reply to Mr Dumas who wondered whether the Syrian Army should withdraw from Beirut and the surrounding region, Damascus' allies said that "the Syrian Army's presence is the result of outside necessities and the future of this presence will be decided by a national unity government."

Mr Scheer, who arrived in Beirut on Tuesday 29 August, was due to meet with a large number of Lebanese officials there with whom he will have the opportunity of clarifying the French position. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Capture Strategic Post Near Khowst

BK3008135089 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 30 Aug 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] Now, to the upsurge in the fighting in Afghanistan and it appears that the guerrillas are keeping up their offensive, which began nearly a week ago. They now say they captured a strategically important government post near the eastern garrison town of Khowst, close to the Pakistan border. From Islamabad here is (Sill Jones):

[Begin recording] The heavy fighting around Khowst, save targets of the guerrilla takeover for years, has been going on for the last 6 days. It lies within 30 miles from the Pakistan border and the Pakhtun area long held by the mujahidin. Although not a large city, it is strategically important because it sits astride many of the supply routes between Pakistan and mujahidin units fighting deep inside Afghanistan. According to the latest reports from the guerrillas, all seven parties in their Pakistan-based alliance launched a coordinated attack and took the government post of (Dragi) 10 km south of Khowst, one of the principal strongholds protecting the routes to the local airport.

It is reported that the airport itself has come under mujahidin rocket fire in the last week. The resistance also say that they captured three other Kabul government posts in the same area—(Saikee), (Musa Khan) and Walian, and that the fighting is still going but there is no word about casualties. According to some Western diplomats here in Islamabad, several other government posts have fallen to the rebels and they think that this could herald an offensive against the city itself. The Afghan Army, they say, have responded to the attacks with volleys of Soviet Scud missiles and that as many as 50 to 60 casualties a day are reaching hospitals in Pakistan as a result of the battle.

The same diplomats also say, that in the capital, Kabul, there are major shortages of petrol, eating oil, and drug for local hospitals. [end recording]

Diplomats: Thousands of Afghans Evacuating Kabul

BK3008141889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1355 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 30 (AFP)—Thousands of residents have fled Kabul recently following a sharp rise in rocket attacks on the Afghan capital, Western diplomats said here Wednesday [30 August].

"There is an increasing evacuation of people from the city," one diplomat said, adding that some sources say up to 40,000 people per month have been leaving.

The diplomats gave no casualty figures.

However, the official Afghan media reported that in July alone 150 people were killed and some 500 wounded in the barrages it usually blames on the mujahidin guerrillas fighting to overthrow the Soviet-backed Kabul regime.

Many children have reportedly been hurt playing with unignited flares dropped over the city by Soviet and Afghan aircraft, they said.

Quoting reports from Kabul, the diplomats said residents faced "major shortages of medicine, gasoline and heating fuel."

They said electricity was being rationed and hospitals were short on drugs, with the authorities withholding medicine for the military.

They added that the Soviets are flying in 280 tons of food daily.

A major battle has also broken out between the mujahidin and government troops in the Paghman mountains west of Kabul, with government forces using heavy artillery and bombing raids over the past four days, they said.

The attacks were believed to be in retaliation for guerrilla rocket strikes on the Kargah Garrison defending Kabul, which resistance sources here said blew up an ammunition depot and caused heavy casualties.

Diplomats also confirmed heavy fighting around the Khowst Garrison in eastern Paktia Province bordering Pakistan. Government posts around Khowst have fallen to the resistance, the diplomats said, adding that the guerrillas appeared heading for a major offensive on the city itself.

Diplomats quoting doctors and volunteers working in the border region said casualties from increased Scud attacks, used by the government forces to defend the Khowst Garrison, are reaching as many as 50 to 60 a day.

USSR Said Arming Kabul Regime 'Heavily'

BK3008160589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1552 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 30 (AFP)—The Soviet Union is arming Afghanistan heavily, flying in vast quantities of arms and ammunition daily to bolster the Kabul regime against the mujahidin, a former Afghan pilot charged Wednesday [30 August].

But M.N. Afzah, 48, alleged at a press conference here that the morale of Afghanistan's armed forces was "very low" and many Afghan pilots, both civilian and those in the air force, wanted to flee the country.

Mr. Afzah, who was trained as a pilot in the United States, said he arrived here a fortnight ago by a normal flight, four months after being grounded by Ariana Afghan, Kabul's only air carrier in which he was a pilot from 1987.

He did not say why he had been grounded. He said he had served the Afghan Air Force also as a pilot for 10 years until 1978, when he was arrested and imprisoned for more than a year on suspicion of being a "counter-revolutionary".

Mr. Afzali, who said he still had extensive contacts in the air force, alleged that there were "a very large number of Soviet military advisors" in Kabul despite the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

"Whenever the mujahidin fires one rocket into Kabul, the Soviets and government forces fire 10 more rockets to hit civilian targets in order to give a bad name to the resistance," he alleged.

"No wonder morale is so low in the armed forces," he added.

Mr. Afzali said three of his brothers were killed by government troops after 1978 and that he had been wanting to leave Afghanistan for many years. He said his wife and five children came to India shortly before him and "I am expecting my sixth son soon."

He said he had no immediate plans for the future.

Kabul Said Using New Missile Against Mujahidin

BK3108032889 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 31 Aug 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] Diplomatic sources in the Afghan capital, Kabul, say the Afghan Armed Forces are now using a new tactical weapon in their attacks on mujahidin positions close to Kabul. Our correspondent in the city, Lyce Ducet, says the new missile is believed to be Soviet made and is said to have a range of between 20 and 40 miles.

[Begin Ducet recording] The Afghan Government still has (?not) announced the new acquisition, but observers believe the new missile was used for the first time last week. Diplomats say it fills a strategic gap in its arsenal to counter new longer-range guerrilla missiles being fired against Kabul. But the effectiveness of this new tactical weapon is still unclear. The government recently said it would also extend the capital's security belt to 40 miles—an attempt to deny the guerrillas access to new firing positions. It also accused the United States of supplying new cluster rockets to the mujahidin—two-stage missiles which explode in midair, scattering small bombs and antipersonnel mines over a wide area. Kabul's main backer, the Soviet Union, has repeatedly pledged on necessary assistance for the government's defense. It blames the United States for fueling this arms spiral, a charge American officials deny, saying they are responding to the massive buildup of Soviet supplies inside Afghanistan. The Afghan Government's fire power is vastly superior to the guerrillas, including advanced helicopter gunships and an array of rockets, including Scuds which can be fired (?at) distances of nearly 200 miles. Western diplomats in Pakistan say the use of Scuds was the key factor in repulsing a recent guerrilla offensive against the eastern garrison town of Khowst. [end recording]

Hekmatyar Boycott Causes Mujahidin Internal Crisis

BK3108071489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0705 GMT 31 Aug 89

[By Rene Slama]

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Aug 31 (AFP)—The Afghan rebels' interim government faces a new internal crisis triggered by the withdrawal of its foreign minister, Golbuddin Hekmatyar, six months after its formation.

Mr. Hekmatyar, 40, head of the fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami, one of the most radical of the Muslim guerrilla factions based here, has decided to boycott "until further notice" all meetings of the rebel government to protest a "campaign of denigration" against him by two rival groups within the rebel movement, his aides said Wednesday.

Mr. Hekmatyar, currently in Afghanistan, said through a spokesman here that the Hezb-e Eslami faction would resume its activities for the "interim cabinet" once it received "categorical assurances" that elections would be organized immediately in the "liberated areas" of Afghanistan.

According to Mr. Hekmatyar the rebels had planned to organize elections in Afghanistan six months after forming the interim government in February shortly after Moscow completed its troop withdrawal.

The official statement, released here Tuesday, said the Hezb faction would continue to participate in "joint military operations against the pro-Soviet Kabul regime" and that it wanted to "maintain sincere and fraternal relations with all the Muslim factions" fighting against the communist government of President Najibullah.

On Wednesday, aides of Mr. Hekmatyar's two main adversaries in the rebel movement, the royalist Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, president of the rebel government, and the relatively moderate Burhanuddin Rabbani, political leader of the Jamiyat-e Eslami faction, characterized Mr. Hekmatyar's action as a "clever maneuver," "pretext" and "act of desperation."

In their eyes, Mr. Hekmatyar was becoming more and more isolated, especially after an alleged massacre of 30 fighters under Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, a Jamiyat military commander, carried out by a Hezb commander, Sayyed Jamal, on July 9 in northeastern Takhar Province.

Since then, Mr. Hekmatyar's relations with Mr. Mojaddedi and Mr. Rabbani have sharply deteriorated, with the latter pressuring the mujahidin government to mount a formal investigation of the "Takhar massacre."

Commander Mas'ud, known as the "Lion of Panjsher," had organized a major operation to capture Mr. Jamal, prompting sharp criticism last week by Hezb, which accused Jamiyat of launching murderous attacks againt these men in several Afghan provinces.

Najibullah Lafrai, the rebels' information minister, said Wednesday only that Mr. Hekmatyar's decision was "regrettable" at a time when the jihad, or holy war, was entering a "critical phase."

The Hezb chief's withdrawal could also embarrass one of the guerrillas' principal supporters, Washington, which has repeatedly asked the rebels to show more cohesion.

Mr. Hekmatyar's decision has already sparked lively debate here on the delicate question of elections.

He recently said the rebel government was so ineffective that it was in no shape to move its headquarters to Afghanistan and organize elections.

As it was, a certain amount of confusion surrounded the February 21 creation in Rawalpindi of the interim government, which received quiet aid from the Pakistani secret service, Western sources here recalled.

Since then the seven Sunni Muslim parties of the Afghan resistance based in Pakistan have been unable to establish power within the provisional government, allowing traditional tribal differences to hold sway.

These divisions also prevail in the field, where the lack of military coordination is preventing the mujahidin from succeeding.

Mujahidin Kill 38 Kabul Soldiers, Damage 22 Tanks

BK3008153989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of clashes between mujahidin and Kabul regime forces around the capital Kabul. The reports say the mujahidin killed 38 soldiers of the Kabul regime, damaged 22 tanks and several military vehicles. They have captured 32 security posts. They have also captured 42 soldiers of the Kabul regime. According to reports, the mujahidin repulsed an attack of the Kabul forces in Oruzgan Province, besieging the provincial headquarters Tarin Kowt.

Mujahidin Capture 4 Villages in Chahar Bulaq

BK3108063689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have carried out large-scale attacks on Kabul regime positions in Chahar Bulaq District. During the attacks, the mujahidin reportedly captured at least four villages and killed four Kabul regime soldiers.

Government Presents Captured Spaniard to Press

BK3008141089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1402 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, Aug 30 (AFP)—A Spaniard captured by Afghan Government troops while travelling with mujahidin guerrillas in southern Afghanistan one month ago was presented to the international press here Wednesday [30 August].

Jorge Juan Sanchez Garcia, a 35-year-old travel writer, appeared at the Foreign Ministry dressed in Afghan salwar (pajamas) and turban and said he hoped to be released soon.

"I think now they are convinced I am a neutral. I hope I will be released pretty soon," Mr. Garcia said, speaking in English.

Government officials said Mr. Garcia had been charged with entering the country illegally, but that a final "verdict" had not yet been decided.

Mr. Garcia said he had been captured August 1 at a checkpoint in the southern province of Qandahar while travelling with the mujahidin. He stressed that he had at no time carried or fired a weapon.

He said that he had been told while under interrogation in the prison where he is kept in Kabul that if he were found to be a smuggler, a mujahidin or a spy the penalties could be severe.

Mr. Garcia said he had not been able to see a Red Cross representative, and burst into a broad smile when told that his family had been informed through press reports that he was alive and all right in Kabul.

"Now I am happy," he said.

He said he would like to send a message to his family in Spain. "I am thinking of them, and I hope to be back in Spain for the birthday of my daughter who will be two years old in October," he said.

Mr. Garcia, who appeared pale but in good health at the one and a half hour press conference, said he was being kept in a room of three metres by four metres with two other prisoners.

"Every day I get two or three magazines, sugar and jam and coffee. I know I am getting special privileges, but still...." he said, his voice trailing off.

Recounting the steps leading to his capture, he said he first entered Afghanistan from Pakistan with mujahidin guerrillas in January, the month before Soviet troops completed their withdrawal.

He then left, travelling to Nepal, India, Tibet and Sri Lanka before returning to Pakistan where he once again crossed the border with the mujahidin who had told him he had no need of a visa.

Arrested at a government checkpoint, he was taken to the southern city of Qandahar and then flown to Kabul where he had been held and interrogated for the past month.

Mr. Garcia said the focus of his interrogation had been to establish whether he was a spy, whether he carried a camera and details of the mujahidin with whom he had talked.

He said he would like to apologise to the Afghan Government for entering the country without a visa, saying the mujahidin had assured him "the government held only the cities" and that he did not need a visa.

He said he did not regret his experiences and that he was "learning a lot," adding that he now felt disillusioned with the mujahidin and agreed with the Soviet-backed government's policy of "national reconciliation."

Rebel Official Urges Action Against Kabul

LD2808211289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] A deputy of the Supreme Jihad Council of Afghanistan's Islamic Movement has announced: The correct policy pursued by the Islamic Republic of Iran toward the issue of Afghanisan has safeguarded the steadfastness of the eight-party groups. Mr Rezwani, a member of the Central Council and deputy of the Supreme Jihad Council of Afghanistan's Islamic Movement, who visited Iran recently, said in an interview with IRNA: Thanks to the 10 years of experience gained by the Muslim mujahidin in their battles against the Kabul regime, I am certain that coordination between the Shiite and Sunni groups in the political and military arenas is essential to achieve a quick and definitive victory.

Referring to the point that at present the two superpowers of the east and the west are trying somehow to increase their influence in Afghanistan, he said: If the United States and the USSR were to stop interfering in the problem of Afghanistan the Muslim mujahidin would solve this problem themselves.

Another official of the Islamic Movement, Modarresi, said in this interview: The resumption of the battle for Jalalabad would weaken the morale of the muslim mojahedin, delay the victory, and inflict a blow on the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan. He pointed out that all the Sunni and Shiite forces of Afghanistan should mobilize to carry out extensive operations in Kabul. The fall of Kabul would facilitate the collapse of other provincial centers.

Najibullah Replies to Anniversary Greetings

LD2808064189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 27, BAKHTAR—Reply messages of President Najibullah, addressed to Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and chairman of the State Council of the German Democratic Republic; Kim Il-Song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of that country; Laszlo Nanasi, chairman of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [name, title as received]; Karoly Grosz, general secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, and Wojciech Jaruzelski, president of the Polish People's Republic were sent to Bonn [as received], Budapest, and Warsaw on August 26, 1989. The latters had earlier sent their congratulatory messages to the Afghan leader felicitating him on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the regaining of the independence of Afghanistan.

Mujahidin Envoy Assails Western Media Propaganda

BK2508112389 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1037 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Aug 25 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The Western media is actively spreading propaganda to cause the world to lose sympathy for the struggle of the Afghan mujahidin, the mujahidin representative here, Dr Mohammad Ashraf Amanyar, said Friday.

Among the propaganda spread by the Western media, which was influenced by the Kabul regime, was that the mujahidin leaders were fighting among themselves, he said.

"The communist regime is using the mass media to prevent the advancement of the mujahidin fighters after realising that its chances of remaining in power are slim," he said.

"We will not betray the pledge which we have made to struggle to form an Islamic state in Afghanistan," he said.

Deputy Prime Minister Mangal Interviewed

JN2408181689 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 22 Aug 89 p 15

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Sarwar Mangal by Dr Ahmad al-Nu'man; date, place not given]

[Text] AL-WATAN: The issue of the prisoners of war [POW's] is considered the foremost issue whether in the Middle East or in Afghanistan. It is known that the Afghan mujahidin have proposed the release of Soviet POW's in exchange for the release of the mujahidin POW's and detainees of the Afghan Government. What is your position on this?

[Mangal] The Soviet delegation in charge of the POW's has recently visited Kabul as well as other cities. The delegation held talks with Afghan officials. Our position on this humanitarian issue is amply clear. Our government will exert all efforts for the return of the Soviet

POW's to their country. We are in agreement with the Soviet friends on this issue as well as the steps to be taken in this regard.

AL-WATAN: Tension has prevailed in the Middle East, particularly in Lebanon, because Israel abducted Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd. How do you view this act of international terrorism by Israel?

[Mangal] When signs of a political solution to this or that regional crisis appear, terrorism is used to abort the solution. This happens in the Middle East and Afghanistan. Recently, there have been signs to resolve the Middle East crisis through the international conference. And the establishment of the Palestinian state—with which Afghanistan has exchanged ambassadorial representation—was an additional factor. Terrorism appeared at this stage to obstruct the peaceful solution. This is similar in form and method to the situation in Afghanistan. Afghan cities, including Kabul, are exposed to the terrorism of missiles while the Geneva resolutions could be implemented and efforts could be exerted to reach a peaceful solution and national reconciliation in Afghanistan.

Therefore, we condemn terrorism in general. Our country is also the victim of terrorism.

AL-WATAN: How do you view your relations with the Arab countries in light of the new situation after the complete Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan?

[Mangal] Not long ago, 'Atif 'Abd-al-Rahman, an Afghan official, returned from Syria where he signed a cultural agreement. Our relations with Syria have developed in the interest of the two countries. We also have good relations with Iraq, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Algeria, and other Arab countries.

AL-WATAN: How are your relations with the Palestinian state?

[Mangal] We established good relations with the PLO since the launching of the Afghan April revolution. Now, we have relations on the ambassadorial level with the Palestinian state.

I must note here that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat plays an important role in the mediation to resolve the Afghan issue. 'Arafat met in Pakistan with the mujahidin and Pakistani officials to reach a peaceful solution to the Afghan problem.

AL-WATAN: Have Afghan-Iranian relations improved in the wake of the Soviet forces' withdrawal from Afghanistan?

[Mangal] Many changes have taken place in our relations with Iran since the Soviet forces' withdrawal from Afghanistan, as you implied in your question. Political meetings are held between the two sides, which did not happen in the past. We will embark on trade relations with Iran. The Afghan Consulate has been reopened in Iran. Thus, our diplomatic and consular representation has been promoted and we have opened a new consulate.

There were positive developments after the visit to Moscow by Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the visit to Iran by Eduard Sheverdnadze. The two parties agreed on not interfering in the other party's internal affairs, including Afghanistan. The leaders of Tehran and Moscow also underlined the Geneva resolutions with regard to the peaceful solution of the Afghan issue.

AL-WATAN: How do you view the mujahidin bases in Iran? Before the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan there were approximately 30 mujahidin bases in Iran. What is the fate of these bases?

[Mangal] Before anything else, we in Kabul pin our hopes on the alliance of the eight groups based in Iran to reach solutions that will guarantee national Aghan interests as well as the interests of all Afghan forces. The issue needs time only. We must underline that the relations that are being strengthened and developed between the USSR and Iran have begun to have positive effect on the Iranian position toward Afghanistan in general.

AL-WATAN: Will this equation apply to Chinese-Afghan relations, particularly since we are witnessing an improvement in Chinese-Soviet relations?

[Mangal] Yes, we also have common border with China, in a narrow area. Our relations with China are also improving, particularly afer the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. This withdrawal was one of the three obstacles in Soviet-Chinese relations. And with the removal of this obstacle, the Chinese attitude to Afghanistan has greatly improved.

AL-WATAN: What about Soviet aid to Afghanistan?

[Mangal] We have signed an agreement with the USSR until the year 2000 covering economic, trade, cultural, and other fields of cooperation in terms that benefit Afghanistan. We receive immense amounts of free aid from the USSR. This aid includes a portion of the USSR contribution to the United Nations. We received from the USSR 100,000 tonnes of wheat as well as $ 1.1 billion. This is a great and valuable aid at this time in particular. Afghanistan receives 10-15 percent of its aid from the world and 85-90 percent from the USSR alone.

AL-WATAN: All this is about the situation around Afghanistan. What is the military situation inside Afghanistan in particular after the Soviet withdrawal from Afghan territory?

[Mangal] Our enemies, and even some unbiased parties, said that the opposition would assume power 1 week after the Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan. However, this did not happen of course. Our Army has become stronger and we began to depend on ourselves, thus promoting Afghan national vigilance. The opposition could not achieve any military success. We repulsed the attack on Jalalabad—the attack through which the

opposition hoped to gain a foothold for its alleged government. However, the opposition was disappointed.

Our military situation now is much better than before and our technical military capability is higher than before, even when Soviet forces were present. We pushed back the opposition forces to the Afghan-Pakistani border. Therefore, the wager on the military solution has failed despite the great amounts of American, Pakistani, and other assistance.

India

Nationwide Strike Situation, Violence Reported

Strike Has 'Little Impact'

BK3008103489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 30 Aug 89

[Text] The bundh [strike] call given by some opposition parties has so far had little impact in most parts of the country, while it evoked some response in Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and West Bengal. The Indian Airlines flights are operating normally. Flights from Delhi left on schedule and arrivals from Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras reached on time.

A spokesman of the Indian Airlines said hundred percent attendance has been reported at the airport and other offices.

Normal train services have also been reported from the northern, central, and western railways. However, information reaching the Railway Board in New Delhi speaks of disruption in railway services in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, and Assam. In Haryana, a number of trains were stopped at several places. Yesterday, the Haryana chief minister, Mr Devi Lal, while speaking at a public meeting at Hodal had called upon the people to block the roads and train traffic to paralyze normal activities. He also suggested that young men should board each train passing through Haryana and pull the chain at the moment it starts.

An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi a short while ago that in Haryana the railways have asked the state government to provide additional forces, but they were not provided so far. At one place in Haryana, a state minister was leading the crowd, which is blocking the trains.

Bank branches are transacting their business all over the country excepting in Calcutta, where picketing is going on in front of the bank offices. Attendance in Life Insurance Corporation offices has been affected by the bundh.

In the capital, the opposition-sponsored bundh has evoked partial response. The city buses and all modes of private transport are plying. Essential services like milk and water supply, electricity and delivery of duk [mail] are maintained as usual.

A team of AIR [All India Radio] correspondents, who went round the various localities, reports that life in the city is not generally affected. Attendance in government offices and banks is normal. Education institutions are open. Petrol pumps and cinema houses are having usual business.

Main commercial centers like Cannaught Place, Chandni Chowk, Sadarbazar, and Karol Bagh are partially closed. In some parts of the city, particularly in north and west Delhi, industrial houses are closed. But in east Delhi, the bundh has no impact on most of the industrial establishments.

According to police, no untoward incident has been reported except for stray incident of stone throwing and breaking of window panes of some buses.

A spokesman of the Delhi Transport Corporation [DTC] said that more than 3,800 DTC buses and another 722 private buses are plying as usual. Our correspondent says bus services from Delhi to other states, particularly those passing through Haryana, have been affected by the bundh.

In Punjab, central and state government offices, banks, factories and educational institutions are open and buses are plying as usual. In neighboring Haryana, the state transport buses were off the road and the business and teaching activities in almost all the cities in the towns, barring Sonipath, have been affected.

The bundh evoked little response in Himachal Pradesh and in the Kashmir valley of Jammu and Kashmir. It had partial impact in the Jammu division.

The bundh had also little impact in the northeastern states, except in Assam where normal life was affected in Silchar and some other areas.

In Andhra Pradesh, a mob threw stones and bombs on the premises of the low-powered transmitter of Doordarshan [Indian television] at Porotur, about 60 kilometers from Kadappa Town this morning. Later, they forcibly entered the premises of the station and attack the officers on duty. No policeman was seen to resist and repulse the violent mob. The superintendent of police has also confirmed the incident. State-owned buses were off the roads and educational institutions closed.

In Tripura, 700 persons, including the leader of the opposition of the state assembly, Mr Nripen Chakravorty, were arrested for general picketing.

Normal life remained unaffected in Bihar. All government offices, banks, and coal mines are working normally and train and bus services are being maintained.

In West Bengal, the bundh supported by the ruling left front affected normal life. Trams and buses and other vehicles are off the road and shops and bazaars remained closed. But the metro railways is running smoothly.

In Orissa, the bundh evoked partial response with offices, industrial establishments, and banks [words indistinct] and some shops and bazaars closed.

In Gujarat, the bundh call evoked little impact. Transport and other essential services functioned normally. In south Gujarat and Saurastra and Kutch region about 54 percent of shops and markets are closed.

The bundh evoked a lukewarm response at Bombay and other parts of Maharashtra.

In Tamil Nadu, rail services have been resumed after initial obstructions. The chief minister, Mr M. Karunanidhi, said over 3,000 persons have been arrested for picketing on railway tracks.

In Madras, state transport services and city buses were abruptly withdrawn at 1900 yesterday. Vehicular traffic were off the roads and shops remained closed in Kerala. In Karnataka, the bundh call evoked a marginal response. While public undertakings, banks and government offices reported normal attendance, only a few commercial shops in the city were closed.

Opposition Says Strike 'Success'

BK3008131689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1302 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Aug 30 (AFP)—Indian opposition parties claimed Wednesday that an anti-government general strike had been an overwhelming success, calling it a vote of no confidence in Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

"The bundh (strike) has been an unprecedented success by its extent, magnitude and response," opposition leader Vishwanath Pratap Singh told a crowded news conference here.

Mr Pratap Singh, who heads the centrist Janata Dal (People's Party) and has been projected as the opposition's "shadow" prime minister, thanked the people for their "spontaneous and magnificient response" to the strike call.

The "bharat bundh" (Shut India) strike Wednesday was sponsored jointly by opposition parties, who buried their factional and ideological hostilities to demand Mr Gandhi's resignation ahead of general elections due later in 1989.

State-run television said the strike had failed and showed clips demonstrating apparent normality, but the opposition disputed this.

Mr Pratap Singh said the success of the strike amounted to a vote of no confidence in the government and a referendum against its "corrupt and anti-people policies." He said it also signalled popular support for the opposition's demand that Mr Gandhi quit on charges of corruption in a 1.3-billion-dollar gun deal with the Swedish arms firm Bofors. [passage omitted]

Mr Pratap Singh, who was one of Mr Gandhi's closest aides until 1987, when he quit the cabinet and was expelled from the Congress (I) for trying to highlight administrative corruption, said the strike's success was more pronounced because of the government's efforts to break it.

Thousands of opposition workers were arrested nationwide in a police crackdown ahead of the strike and government employees threatened with punishment if they played truant Wednesday, he said. "But the bundh was still near-total in its sheer magnitude as well as response to it," he added.

In New Delhi and elsewhere in India, the federal government asked its employees to sleep in their offices overnight Tuesday and served them free food to ensure they reported for work.

State-run television has been broadcasting anti-strike propoganda and emphasising the losses that would accrue from a work stoppage.

"The government interned its own employees, it has lost faith in its own employees," said Mr Pratap Singh, who is also convenor of the five-party opposition alliance, the National Front. "Still we come out winners because today no government employees entered their offices," he said.

Mr Pratap Singh said opposition parties would meet soon to decide on their next course of action.

The strike has been seen as a trial of strength between the government and opposition parties, which have been trying to unite in time for the polls.

5 People Killed, Dozens Injured

BK3008150489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1432 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Aug 30 (AFP)—A general strike to force Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's resignation on corruption charges crippled most of India Wednesday and triggered stray violence which left five people dead and dozens injured. [passage omitted]

State-run television said life was unaffected in most parts of India and showed film clips demonstrating apparent normality. But other news reports indicated that the work stoppage was almost total in six of India's 25 states ruled by the opposition and partial elsewhere, including the capital New Delhi.

The National Front headquarters here said three opposition supporters died in sporadic clashes with Congress (I) workers that also left dozens injured.

One communist party and one Janata Dal worker were killed in Marxist-ruled southern Kerala state, the National Front said. One communist activist was lynched in north-eastern Tripura, administered by the Congress (I), it said.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said three communist supporters were killed in Kerala and one man died in violence in Tripura. One person was reported killed and 30 injured in stray violence in West Bengal State.

Police made repeated baton charges at two places here to break up fighting between supporters of the right-wing Bharatiya Janata (Indian People's) Party (BJP) and Congress (I) members armed with canes and hockey sticks, witnesses said.

Several people were wounded in the baton-charge and the clashes, in which stones and home-made bombs were freely used in the normally crowded commercial districts of Chandni Chowk and Connaught Place.

The National Front alleged that a Congress (I) activist tried to knife former foreign minister and senior BJP leader Atal Behari Vajpayee during one of the clashes. It said the attack was foiled by BJP workers, but Mr Vajpayee received blows. [passage omitted]

Casualties, Arrests Reported

BK3008170089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The bundh [strike] call given by some opposition parties had little impact in most parts of the country today. [passage omitted]

About 40 trains got stranded during the day today at various points in Haryana, but later all of them started for their destinations in the afternoon. Normal bus services were also affected in the state.

In Orissa, the Howrah-Puri Jagannath Express was derailed early this morning. Official sources said the derailment was caused by sabotage by pro-bundh activists.

Indian Airlines flights operated as usual from all airports in the country. Commercial activity in most places was also unaffected by the bundh. Banks transacted business all over the country except in Calcutta, where there was picketing in front of some bank branches. Most public sector undertakings reported normal work. In the Life Insurance Corporation attendance was affected.

In the capital, the bundh evoked partial response and life was generally not affected. City buses and all modes of private transport plied on the roads. Education institutions, petrol pumps, and cinema houses were open. However, the main commercial centers in the city were partially closed.

According to the Delhi police commissioner, Mr Vijay Karan, about 2,400 people were detained. Among them were Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Mr Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Mr Kedar Nath Sahani, and also Mrs Promila Dandavati of the Janata Dal. They were later released.

The police commissioner said that the overall situation remained under control and there was no breakdown of law and order. [passage omitted]

In Bihar, the bundh partially affected normal life in a few places. The bundh had little impact in the northeastern states except in Assam, where normal life was affected in some areas and in Tripura, where seven people were killed in group clashes. The leader of the opposition in the state assembly, Mr Nripen Chakravorty, was arrested for picketing and was later released.

In Assam, work in Guwahati and Digboi oil refineries and oil fields of Oil Indian Limited and Oil and Natural Gas Commission continued without any interruption despite picketing.

In West Bengal, trams, buses, and other vehicles were off the road and shops remained closed. Railway services were disrupted at a few places, but the metro rail functioned normally. At Calcutta port cargo handling was carried out during the day. But there were some incidents of violence in the state in which one person was killed. But reports say that the bundh evoked little response in the Darjeeling hill areas.

In Andhra Pradesh, the bundh evoked partial response and all central government offices, banks, telephone and telegraph services functioned normally. The shops and business establishments were closed and state transport buses were off the road. About 18 meters of rail track was damaged in the Vijayawada railway division disrupting rail traffic. The Vishakhapatnam Port Trust and the Hindustan Shipyard reported normal attendance. [passage omitted]

Traffic was off the road in Kerala also and shops remained closed. But the functioning of the central government institutions like Vikram Sarabi Space Center, was not affected. Three people were killed in violence in the state. [passage omitted]

In Gujarat and Rajasthan, normal life was partially affected only in a very few places. Except for the closure of a few markets, the bundh evoked little response in Uttar Pradesh. In Madhya Pradesh, a number of opposition party workers were arrested for violating prohibitory orders in some district headquarters, but life in the state was unaffected.

According to an official spokesman train services have now returned to normal in areas where these were affected by the bundh.

AFP Notes 'Sporadic Violence'

BK3008105889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1024 GMT 30 Aug 89

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 30 (AFP)—A general strike to force Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's resignation on corruption charges crippled most of India Wednesday

[30 August], triggering sporadic violence which left one person dead and dozens injured.

Thousands of opposition workers were arrested nationwide in a government crackdown that began ahead of the strike and stretched into Wednesday, political sources and news reports said.

Opposition volunteers fought with supporters of Mr Gandhi's Congress (I) party with hockey sticks and bricks at about a dozen places, including the capital, witnesses and the reports said.

Opposition activists, trying to make the "bharat bandh" (shut India) protest a success, damaged more than 50 buses and stopped several trains across the country, leading police to make hundreds of arrests, news reports said.

The lone death in strike-related violence was reported by the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) from the northeastern state of Tripura, which borders Bangladesh and is governed by the Congress (I). PTI gave no details.

Wednesday's protest, the first of its kind in many years, was seen as a test of strength between the opposition and the Congress (I) party ahead of general elections due at the end of the year—the first since Mr Gandhi stormed to power in late 1984.

The strike was called mainly to protest against the alleged payment of huge kickbacks to key government officials in the award of a 1.3-billion-dollar artillery contract to the Swedish arms firm Bofors in 1986.

The government, in a special bulletin televised nationwide Wednesday afternoon, described the strike as a failure, but an opposition leader disputed the claim.

Police made repeated baton charges in two places here to break up fighting supporters of the Bharatiya Janata (Indian People's) Party (BJP) and Congress (I) members armed with canes and hockey sticks, witnesses said.

Several people were wounded in the baton charge and the clash, in which stones and home-made bombs were freely used in the normally crowded commercial districts of Chandni Chowk and Connaught Place, the witnesses said.

BJP workers also stoned 32 state-owned buses here, shattering their glass windows, after the local transport corporation deployed more than 4,000 buses in defiance of the strike call, a spokesman for the Delhi administration said.

Similar attacks on buses and government offices were reported from Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, which are ruled by the Congress (I), and the states of West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh, governed by the opposition, PTI said.

In Andhra Pradesh, opposition party activists torched effigies of Mr Gandhi and attacked an income tax office, while strike supporters raided a post office and smashed computers in West Bengal's capital Calcutta, the news agency said.

Violence was also reported from Kerala, one of two states administered by the Communist Party of India (Marxist), where shops and banks which opened were forced to close.

"The strike is a total success," said Madan Lal khurana, chief of the BJP's New Delhi unit, citing the closure of most markets and business centres in the capital.

Wednesday's general strike became a prestige issue after the opposition, making a determined bid to oust Mr Gandhi in the polls, vowed to turn it into a confidence vote against the 45-year-old premier and the Congress (I) asked people to ignore the protest.

More than 100 opposition MP's [members of Parliament] resignee from Parliament after an official watchdog body blamed the government for bungling in awarding the Bofors contract, giving a dramatic turn to the controversy over the deal.

The strike crippled life in the six states controlled by the opposition, which set aside personal and ideological differences to stage the protest, and affected trade and transport in varying degress in many other areas.

Indian Airlines, the domestic carrier, reported normal operations, while railway officials here said several trains were held up or delayed after opposition workers picketed railroad tracks in many states.

Attendance in government offices, banks and courts throughout the country was reported "poor" to "almost normal", while most schools and colleges across India were shut or did not function.

Authorities began arresting thousands of middle-ranking opposition leaders, activists and trade unionists to foil the strike in a crackdown that began Monday.

The Federal Government cancelled leave for employees and asked workers to spend the night Tuesday in their offices, promising them beds, dinner and breakfast. Thousands accepted the unprecedented offer.

The Federal Government also alerted all police forces and despatched para-military personnel to "sensitive states" for deployment during the strike, which had been widely expected to turn violent.

Wrap-Up of 30 Aug Situation

BK3108041689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Reports received till late last night [30 Aug] from different states say that the opposition-sponsored bundh [strike] evoked little response in most parts of the country, while there were some response in non-Congress-I-ruled states. Train services were normal on

northern, central, and western railways, but were disrupted at some places in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, and Assam. A number of trains were held up in Haryana following the call by the state chief minister, Mr Devi Lal, urging people to block road and rail traffic and paralyze normal life.

Indian Airlines flights operated as usual from all airports in the country. Commercial activities in most places remained unaffected by the bundh. Banks transacted business in different parts of the country excepting Calcutta where there was picketing in front of some bank offices. Most public sector undertakings reported normal working.

In most of the northern states also normal life was unaffected by the bundh. In Punjab, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir, central and state government offices were open and factories and educational institutions functioned as usual. In Bihar, the bundh partially affected normal life in a few places. The bundh had little impact in the northeastern states except in Assam where normal life was affected in some areas and in Tripura. In West Bengal, trams, buses, and other vehicles were off the road. Railway services were disrupted at a few places but the metrorail functioned normally. The bundh evoked little response in Darjeeling hill areas.

In Andhra Pradesh, the bundh evoked partial response, while all central government offices, banks, and telephone and telegraph services functioned normally. In Tamil Nadu and Kerala, there were some disruptions in railway services due to initial obstruction and picketing of railway tracks. The central government institutions were not affected. In Karnataka and Maharashtra, the bundh evoked lukewarm response. Trains and buses plied normally in Bombay metropolis and government offices, banks, and private organizations reported normal attendance. In Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh, the bundh evoked little response.

The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, reacting to the response of the bundh call, said in a statement in New Delhi yesterday that the people have once again demonstrated their determination to stand firm in the face of provocation. Except in the opposition-ruled states where the law and order machinery was misused to enforce the so-called bundh, the people rejected the call, the home minister said.

The information and broadcasting minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, said the bundh did not evoke response because of the noncooperation of the people. The Orissa chief minister, Mr J.B. Patnaik, described the bundh as a total flop as the common people rejected the call.

The Bihar chief minister, Mr S.N. Sinha, thanked the people for rejecting the bundh call. The Madhya Pradesh chief minister, Mr Motilal Vora, praised the people for their cooperation in maintaining peace during the bundh. The All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazagham general secretary, Miss Jayalalitha, said that the people of Tamil Nadu defeated the bundh. In a statement in Madras, she alleged that the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr Karunanidhi, misused the administrative machinery to organize the bundh in the state.

Opposition leaders have claimed that the bundh was a success. They include the Janata Dal president, Mr V.P. Singh, the Bharatiya Janata Party leader, Mr L.K. Advani, and the chief ministers of West Bengal, Haryana, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh. Mr V.P. Singh and Mr Advani also alleged that the police took action against their workers at some places.

According to agency reports, 12 people were killed and several others injured in violence during the bundh. In Tripura, 8 people were killed and 19 others (?injured) in group clashes and bomb explosions.

In West Bengal, 1 person was killed and about 50 others injured in violent clashes. Three deaths have been reported from Kerala.

Ministers, Opposition Leaders Comment

BK3008163289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has said the people have once again demonstrated their determination to stand firm in the face of provocation and political opportunism by rejecting the bundh [strike] call. In a statement in New Delhi today, he said, except in opposition-ruled states where the law and order machinery was misused to enforce the so-called Bharat Bundh [All India Strike], people rejected the call to bring all activities in the country to a halt and retard the nation's progress.

The home minister said certain opposition leaders, particularly in Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, and Assam, stand totally exposed for having abandoned their constitutional duty to maintain law and order by asking the people to obstruct normal working of the nation.

The minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, said the bundh was a flop. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi this evening, he said it has not affected any sector of the economy. He said though some deaths have been reported, there is no report of any death due to police firing anywhere in the country. He said the opposition-ruled governments tried their best to disrupt the train and bus services. They even withdrew the buses, which amounted to declaring a lockout.

Asked about the alleged injury suffered by Mr A.B. Vajpayee during a group clash in New Delhi, Mr Chidambaram said his information is that the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader received some bruises on the left wrist. He conveyed his personal request to Mr Vajpayee to get himself medically examined and put an end to any speculation.

The information and broadcasting minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, said the bundh has flopped because of the noncooperation of the people.

The Congress-I general secretaries—Mr V.N. Gadgil and Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad—have asserted that the bundh was a failure. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today they said that even in the opposition-ruled states where the state machinery was misused, the response was merely partial.

The Indian National Trade Union Congress [INTUC], which has a membership of about 50 lakh workers, has also said that the bundh was a flop. The INTUC general secretary, Mr Gopeshwar, told newsmen in New Delhi that attendance and production in steel plants, mines, and public units were normal.

A number of other Congress-I leaders and chief ministers of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Orissa, Karnataka, Haryana, and Pondicherry have said that the bundh was a failure.

Opposition leaders have claimed the bundh was a success. They include the Janata Dal president, Mr V.P. Singh; the BJP leader, Mr L.K. Advani; and the chief ministers of West Bengal, Haryana, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh.

Mr V.P. Singh and Mr Advani also alleged that the police took action against their workers at some places.

Explosion Derails Train in Punjab; No Casualties

BK2908032689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] In Punjab, seven bogies of the 337 up Delhi-Amritsar passenger train were derailed following an explosion on the track at Gherimandi in Amritsar District last evening. According to an official spokesman, there was no casualty. The train was on its way from Delhi to Amritsar when the explosion took place at about 2245.

8 killed, 13 Injured in Bomb Explosion in Assam

BK2908125689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] In Assam, 8 bus passengers were killed and 13 injured when a powerful bomb exploded in a public bus in Bairabal village about 5 kilometers from Barpeta.

Official sources told our Guwahati correspondent that the bus was going from Anand Bazar, a tribal dominated area, to Barpeta. The bomb exploded when the bus arrived at Bairabal village. The injured passengers have been admitted to Barpeta hospital.

Article Views Continued Tensions With Pakistan

BK2908122389 Delhi PATRIOT in English 15 Aug 89 Supplement p v

[Article by Cecil Victor: "Disappearing Options in Defence," published in special PATRIOT supplement on Independence Day.]

[Text] In a few days an Indian military team will be travelling to Islamabad to try and persuade Pakistan to be satisfied with what we are prepared to relinquish in Jammu and Kashmir. And that is the supreme irony in the celebration of the 42nd year of our independence. It was only a few months after partition that Pakistani troops dressed as tribals raided and occupied a large part of the former princely state. Since than, the Indian military machine and its successive modernisations at huge cost to the people of this nation was thought to be the means, not of undoing partition, but at least of securing the vacation of aggression in Jammu and Kashmir. Today we learn that that is not an option any longer.

Anyone watching the performance of the prime ministers of India and Pakistan at the joint press conference in Islamabad when Mr Rajiv Gandhi was there recently would have noticed that Indian goodwill towards Pakistan and its new democratic leader was being reciprocated by a firm resolve to strike the best bargain. When Ms Benezir Bhutto interpreted the understanding reached at the Defence Secretary's level on the Siachen Glacier as being demilitarisation followed by determination of a new line of actual control, she was contradicting the Indian position that the military teams of the two countries during their meeting in New Delhi were plotting the present location of the forward pickets of the two countries preparatory to deciding how far they would move back to avoid hostilities in future. In her own quiet manner she rearranged the priorities and thereby left open Pakistan's claim that the line of actual control must travel north eastwards towards the Karakoram Pass from Grid Reference NJ 9842 the last point mentioned in previous agreements on the line of actual control.

It may be a negotiating ploy to demonstrate to the military establishment (till recently the rulers of Pakistan whom she had charged with having lost the Siachen Glacier to India) what a hard bargain she is striking. But she must also, in her great astuteness, be aware that any attempt to give a different interpretation to the Defence Secretaries' agreement would unravel the possibility of the withdrawal of Indian troops from the Saltoro heights and thereby jeopardise the formalisation of what is quite obviously the next stop in the partition of Jammu and Kashmir on the basis of we keep what we have.

And all this in the face of the ongoing campaign of delinking the whole of Jammu and Kashmir from India by encouragement of insurgency in the Valley. Every other day we hear one or the other Indian Minister informing Parliament that Pakistan has continued to give sanctuary and material support to Sikh and Kashmir terrorists. In this connection we have already,

under direct US pressure, foreclosed the option of "hot pursuit" which is the legitimate right of a victim nation to take action against persons using foreign soil for secessionist actions. Instead we have an ineffective joint patrolling arrangement between the border guards of the two counties which has not contributed much to the ending of terrorism in Punjab and Kahmir.

During the time of the Zia dictatorship, the US brought pressure to bear on the Government of India not to take the campaign against Pakistani attempts to capture the Siachen Glacier by military force to its logical conclusion through successive visits by Defence Secretaries Caspar Weinberger and Frank Carlucci. The US did not want Pakistan's attention to be diverted from the Afghanistan involvement. Today the tack is different; everything must be done to help preserve democracy in Pakistan. India must bend over backwards so as not to make things difficult for Ms Benezir Bhutto and thereby provoke a backlash from the remanants of the military dictatorship. And the Bush Administration refused to put the brakes on the Pakistani nuclear programme on the plea that it could jeopardise democracy in Pakistan. Similarly, Pakistani involvement in Afghanistan cannot be reduced because it could deflower democracy in Pakistan. Every regional issue is dictated by the need to give Ms Benezir Bhutto a chance to consolidate herself.

At least since 1962, the Indian military establishment was guided by the possibility of having to fight a war on two fronts—Pakistan and China—because of the collusive diplomacy the two had nurtured over the years. In 1971 the possibility became enlarged to include incursions by the US task forces into the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. As a consequence the Indian military establishment grew to become the fourth largest in the world. In recent years military writers (retired Generals) have been advocating a massive increase in the strength of the standing army. It does not require a military mind to realise that in case, at some future date, the Pakistan Army decides to take over the posts vacated by Indian troops on the Saltoro heights of the Siachen Glacier, it will require a massive investment in manpower and logistics to wrest the heights again. There could be diversionary or direct retaliatory action in other sectors instead, but it will require much more than the 3:1 military ratio set by the US between India and Pakistan to change the military situation on the ground. It may appear premature and churlish to point out that democracy in Pakistan is tenuous; that the threat to it from a military bureaucracy that has had the taste of power is still potent; that the military's decision to take a back seat in Pakistani politics could well be a tactic fashioned in collaboration with Washington to use Ms Benezir Bhutto to secure maximum concessions from India in terms of territory and commitments before reversing the trend.

In our induced eagerness to nurture democracy in Pakistan we may well be endangering our own. If the fourth largest military establishment in the world is not going to fight in the mountains and in the desert (at risk of parodying Churchill), and if it cannot be used to retrieve Indian territory from foreign aggression, then what is it going be used for? To tame the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Or to join in war-games and frolics in the Indian ocean with the US CENTCOM? All this is an unfolding blueprint of US designs in the region. Washington has already elaborated its intention of turning India around to its perception by 1998 or 2001. It has a penchant for supporting dictatorship where democracy is recalcitrant.

Commentary on Pakistan's Attitude on Siachen

BK2508130889 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The reported statement of Pakistani Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto early this week saying that another season of warfare may be inevitable, has come as a shock to India. Her remarks came at a time when the two neighbors have started afresh a dialogue to normalize relations that were murky during a long martial law rule in Pakistan. Ms Bhutto made the statement while visiting Pakistani troops in the Siachen Glacier region, her first visit since she became the prime minister.

India has been emphasizing that negotiations between the two neighbors should be within the framework of the Simla Agreement and India took the initiative in this regard when Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi visited Islamabad for talks with his counterpart. The question of Siachen also cropped up during the discussions.

It would not be out of place to recall that Pakistan had unilaterally began to establish its ownership right on the un-demarcated Siachen area by organizing international expedition beginning in 1974. Pakistanis, who were accompanying foreign mountaineers, deliberately left behind some marks which were later shown as evidence of their territorial rights. There were cartographic aggressions too.

These actions on the part of the Pakistanis obviously roused India's suspicion. India apprehended that Pakistan may have military ambition and took preemptive action in 1985 to establish its territorial rights over this glacier region, which is a part of Kashmir. And ever since India is holding on to its position bravely.

Before Ms Bhutto came to power, there were four rounds of official level talks to defuse tension in this region. Even as the talks were at the initial stages, Pakistani troops sent reinforcement along a wide stretch of the high altitude area, extending from Kargil to Siachen Glacier, adjoining Nubra valley in the region of Ladakh.

It is strange enough that ever since India foiled the military designs of Pakistan in 1985, their leaders were speaking in different tones on the Siachen issue. After democracy was restored in Pakistan in November last

year two rounds of official level talks between the two neighbors were held—one in New Delhi and the other at Islamabad. Senior military delegations of India and Pakistan exchanged notes in this connection. During the first round of military delegation-level talks in the Indian capital New Delhi, it was felt that unless the two sides recorded their positions on the ground at the glacier, there was little to prevent the other side from making unverifiable claims at a later stage when the question of defining a mutually acceptable line of control in the area crops up. However, as a gesture the Indian side agreed to concede the Pakistani request that the first item on the agenda should be the issue of withdrawal from those dizzy heights, which is a part of India.

Indian officials feel that the reason for the second round of talks getting bogged down may be due to the varying interpretations of the agreement, that means whether it was a mere withdrawal or whether it means a package which involves a recording of the Indian and Pakistan positions on the map. If the former is the reason, it could mean that India should withdraw its troops from the dominating heights in the glacier. The latter involves a mutually acceptable extension of the line of control to fill the gap between point NJ-9842 and the Chinese border in the north followed by a withdrawal to pre-Simla agreement position. This would mean de facto demilitarization for the glacier.

Ms Bhutto's observations under these circumstances given ground conditions do not augur well. It now appears that bilateral talks are unlikely to gain momentum. The timing of her visit to the snowy forward areas is also another point that cannot escape notice. She is under attack by the chief minister of the NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] for her stand on Siachen. Her reported remark that, as we can see everybody in Siachen is quite dug-in for another winter, was seen by observers in Delhi as a sort of comment to boost the morale of her troops.

With continuous training for acclimatization, our jawans [soldiers] have been holding on to their positions bravely. Every attack by Pakistan has been repulsed with greater punch. But a silver lining in the cloud, that unlike her predecessor, Mrs Bhutto has taken the initiative to resolve the issue under the Simla spirit. As a result, the third round of negotiations at the military delegation-level is expected in New Delhi. The ball is, thus, in the Pakistani court now.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speaks at Cabinet Meeting

LD3008180789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] The first meeting of the Cabinet was held this afternoon under the chairmanship of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

At the meeting Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani first said: We begin our task today in the name of Imam Khomeyni—may he be admitted to God's paradise—the great leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as in the memory of the government's two dear martyrs—Raja'i and Bahonar—and with applause for the martyrs of Islam and seeking help from their spirits.

We honestly ask God to make us successful in performing the very important duties we have accepted for our good and self-sacrificing people.

He said: We thank the great leader Khamene'i, the people, and the Majlis for supporting and protecting the government and trusting the new government. We thank the prime minister and the ministers of the past period—be it those whose experiences are now used in the government or those who will accept responsibility in other trenches—for the efforts they have made.

Addressing the members of the cabinet he stressed: I draw your attention to the point that in my swearing-in ceremony I pledged to devote myself to the revolution and the people. You too have definitely made the same pledge. In this path we must resolve to give of ourselves in the interests of the society. In such a case the people will value us and give us credit. Moreover, the otherwordly pleasure and reward we will recieve exceeds all that.

Continuing his remarks, the president referred to the need for the rule of principles rather than that of nepotism. He also referred to the need to improve current affairs, as well as prevent unnecessary expenditures and eliminate unsavory individuals from the area of authority of each minister. He said: If we improve the domain of our own work, the totality of the work will be cleansed and the people will also not expect outstanding work from us. [sentence as heard] If government organizations accomplish their work at an ordinary level, society will be reformed. I believe nothing could speed up the work better than the soundness of the work.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: Observance of society must be one of our policies. We must sincerely accept all the currents that are in agreement with and faithful to the revolution; we must definitely avoid factionalism and favoritism. We must allow a package of thoughts and ideas to participate in the progress of the affairs of the country.

The president also stressed the need to observe order in implementing foreseen programs in government affairs. Then the meeting began its work according to the agenda. The 5-year plan was debated in detail. It was decided to continue debate on the plan in subsequent meetings.

President, New Cabinet Meet Khamene'i

LD3008135289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Dear listeners, just as you were informed at the start of the news bulletin for this hour, on the 1st day of

the start of the new government's work, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, accompanied by the president's deputies and Cabinet members, met this morning with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran. With the broadcast of the meeting's details we end the news for this hour of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Good day. God bless.

[Begin recording] [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Thanks be to God, and His blessed prophet, may God's peace be upon him and his scion. This happy opportunity came our way; we are fortunate that before the Cabinet began its work it was able to visit the shrine of the great leader of the revolution and benefit from that eminence's guidelines. We consider this to be among the divine blessings. Before coming here, the gentlemen visited the blessed graveside of the eminent imam and we prayed to be blessed by the holy light of that great man of history and one whose guidelines, thoughts, the achievements of his revolution, are—for the future—the most important provisions of our journey and a beacon for our path. We want to visit the graves of the martyrs in the path of Islam and the revolution. These are martyrs of today, especially Martyr Bahonar, Martyr Raja'i, and martyrs of the explosion of the headquarters of the Islamic Republic Party, notably, Martyr Beheshti. We visited their graves so that we would tread the path they followed. God willing, we will follow that same path and continue their path.

We are in the presence of Your Eminence, right now. Just as, from the moment of the start of your responsibility as leader, we have benefitted from your support and guidelines—at this moment of the beginning of our work too—we need to be able to benefit from your guidelines. The general policies of the system which we have to implement—that is, we have to follow in that same path—should be issued from Your Eminence. We are familiar with your view to a large extent, but we think that from now on, there is a definite need for the cabinet and also the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the rest of the executors should be within the current of the requests and views of the leader so that we may be able to carry out our duties in a manner worthy of an Islamic system and in keeping with what is wanted by our Islamic nation and in a manner that was in line with the actions and aims of his eminence, the imam of the ummah.

Thanks be to God, everything passed off quickly. The fundamental basis of the task was in strengthening the position of the leadership [rahbari] and this was the first leadership after the demise of his grace, the imam, which was aptly filled. After this, everything took its course normally; the people carried out their responsibilities well. The Majlis too, performed its responsibility well. We are witness today to the fact that the Government of the Islamic Republic, the Islamic Cabinet of this system, has been formed again with new faces. I thank God Almighty that I succeeded in obtaining that which I wanted and thought: to select good colleagues. Your excellency is familiar with these gentlemen; you know them all. You have not hesitated in letting us have the benefit of your views and guidance during the period we were forming this Cabinet; you have been kind. You certainly know, yourself, that this Cabinet is, with all its being, at the disposal of carrying out the demands of the leader and the people. Today, God be thanked, it can be seen that there is cooperation between the Majlis, the government, and the rest of the institutions, the judicial branch, and God willing, under the shadow of your assistances, these coordinations will continue. At the start of our work, we are glad that since this morning, we have been with our honored brother, the valuable remainder [yadegar] of the his eminence, the imam of the ummah, Mr Haj Seyyed Ahmad [Khomeyni], which I mentioned earlier. We would be grateful if, before we start our work, you would council us.

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. First, I welcome and congratulate all dear brothers who are present: His Excellency Mr Hashemi, our dear and esteemed president, His Excellency Haj Seyyed Ahmad Aqa, the dear son of our great imam [Khomeyni], and each of you very good, dear, servant, and toiling brothers.

It is necessary that on such a day and such an occasion we should commemorate the memory of the dear martyrs of these days: Our dear Martyr Raja'i and our dear Martyr Bahonar, who were two distinguished representatives of the adherents of the imam and the revolution. Also, we should commemorate Martyr Araqi, who was a selfless devotee of imam, and whose date of martyrdom is around this date. May God adjoin these esteemed martyrs of the revolution to his chosen servants, and may God give us the blessing to move on the path of our esteemed martyrs, which is the path of God, the Koran, and the imam.

I also consider it my duty, on the occasion of formation of the new cabinet, to thank the members of the previous cabinet, in particular our dear brother engineer Musavi, who endeavored with all his abilities during 8 years of most difficult conditions. I was witness to that, and I consider it necessary that I should testify that under such difficult conditions, great care and momentous efforts were carried out by these brothers. Praise be to God, those efforts did produce results. These brothers did their utmost, and praise be to God, some of them are still present in the new Cabinet. We hope that they will continue their efforts in the same way. Some who are not in that Cabinet are still present among the collective set of servants of the system of Islamic Republic, and God willing, they will continue to remain there.

As far as you brothers here are concerned, I would like to sincerely congratulate you. First this congratulation applies to the people. A president with such characteristics is indeed a divine blessing for our nation, revolution, and country. The presence of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani

and this responsibility of his are indeed blessings for the people and for us. I do appreciate the value of that blessing, and I am sure that people also appreciate that, which they showed in their voting and their declaration of loyalty to him. They will, god willing, continue to show their loyalty in the future. You brothers who work in this collectivity with him deserve a separate note of congratulations. There is another congratulation for you for the confidence of the Majlis, which should be conveyed to you. During these 2 or 3 days of very interesting debate, and very exceptional and very revealing of complete freedom—which is one of the positive points of our country and our Majlis... [changes thought] Those who doubt the principles of an Islamic state and the total Islamic freedom in this country should know that this is our Majlis. The deputies, with utmost clarity and sense of duty, expressed their opinions for and against. This is another great blessing we possess. Then, we had the Majlis's sense of sensitive responsibility, which was shown by the deputies giving their vote of confidence to all the proposed ministers. The Majlis showed that it indeed understands the realities and interests of the country very well, while considering itself responsible in the face of such realities. The great proof of that was that the Majlis gave you, the members of the new Cabinet, a great vote of confidence. I thank the brother and sister deputies of the Majlis, in particular the Hezbollah and faithful brothers by whose positive vote this possibility was created that the cabinet should promptly begin its work so that the responsible brothers may be able to manage the country's affairs.

Of course, in the future, we will have a continuous exchange of opinions and cooperation with you brothers. I would like to briefly state that in the final analysis, responsibility and commitment are not one-sided. When some individuals rule the people—in its Islamic sense of the word and not in the decadent sense customary among ignorant currents of thought, but in its Islamic sense meaning they they will take the responsibility of management of the country upon their shoulder—the responsibility is a two-sided one between them and the people. Beginning today people have certain obligations to you and vice versa. Your obligation is that you should do your utmost in working for these people. This is nothing new to you, as you have always taken that test and worked for the people. This is an admonition in the first place for myself [as heard] and then for you and for all those who have accepted responsibilities. We should really do our utmost, with all the abilities which can be found in our mind and power of innovation, which we must utilize for the management of the country's affairs and for administering people's work, so that the people can continue their path toward an Islamic lifestyle, which does not mean attention to spiritualities and neglect of materialistic affairs. In the same way it does not mean attention to materialistic affairs while neglecting spiritual matters and objectives.

This Cabinet has declared that it seeks to resolve people's problems as far as possible. His excellency the president has announced that the Cabinet is a functional one, which intends to carry out tasks in various dimensions with power and strength. This promises a good future. It should not be considered by some that movement toward the disentanglement of knots which exist in the life of a nation—in particular a nation which has been through 8 years of war while enduring global pressures and problems—implies distancing from spiritual matters and objectives. This is what the enemy and the foreigners propagate. They try to say that if a functional collectivity tries to work for people's comfort and for resolution of their problems, this implies distancing from the spiritual matters. This is wrong. This is the imagination of the simple-minded, and the inspiration of ill-wishing individuals.

Islam has set plans and objectives for people's worldly life as well as life after death. The foreigners propagate that if a collectivity seeks to resolve people's problems, increase production in the country, activate the mines, industries and agricultural affairs, while operating the factories to their full capacities, then this must mean the weakening or diluting or forgetting about the objectives and spiritualities and the aims of the revolution. [sentence as heard]. This is the enemy's idea, which seeks to inspire this thought among our people. It will be very unfortunate that one should witness that some individuals—who are friends—repeat the enemy's words through simple-mindedness. This world and the life after death are one. Objectives and comfort come hand in hand, alongside one another [word indistinct]. If someone imagines that the society which is inclined toward objectives will not be able to solve issues pertaining to material comfort, this will imply that religious and sacred notions and objectives give no consideration to people's life and their existence. This is a clear contradiction of Islam and all other religions. Certainly movement toward resolving people's problems and paving the way toward a comfortable, good, and healthy life where people enjoy abundance, low prices, and facilities, is an Islamic duty which rests on all our shoulders. It rest in particular on the shoulders of you who are the country's managing officials. This is clear, and it is certainly one of the Islamic objectives, while surely being one of the great imam's objectives. Of course should these two [materialistic comfort and spiritual objectives] come into contradiction one day, the faithful, alert, and revolutionary society will sacrifice its passing and easily dispensible this-worldly existence for everylasting and hardly dispensible objectives which cannot be attained easily.

However, in the long term, in the comprehensive plans you are following, the Iranian nation, God willing, can attain its revolutionary objectives and stances, its Islamic spiritualities along with their material comfort. We are in no hurry, while refraining from rushing the country's officials. God willing, you should devise plans—with patience and attention—for all sectors, economic, cultural, hygeine and medicine, services, production, and in particular in some special sectors such as

agriculture and mining—which are tasks which must be properly transformed. You should set out on your movements, as this is your obligation to the people.

As to the people's responsibility to you, that is the other side of the issue. As we said, it could not be said that you are responsible to the people but the people have no responsibility to you. Or people are responsible to you but you are not responsible to them. No. Both are responsible to each other; that is the word of the lord of the faithful, peace be on him. It is the way of Islam's thinking.

The responsibility of the people is to support you to a maximum degree. If the officials of a country and the Government of the Islamic Republic—any government—are not favored with the support of the people, then their work would be difficult. In some cases and under some conditions it would be impossible for them to work.

People must regard you as trustees, trustee and representatives who intend to solve their difficulties. One does not show anger at his representative, does not seek fault in him. It is the duty of those represented to support their representative. You are the representative of the people—both the president of the Republic who is elected by millions and the representatives of the Majlis who represent the people and who have been elected by the people. You are all representatives of the people. People must defend their representatives and trustees—which is what you are—to the maximum extent. This is the first point.

The other responsibility of the people is to pay attention to the difficulties of the work. It must not be such that irresponsible people make irresponsible noise. We saw during the period of the war how the irresponsible noises came out of the mouths, making our beloved imam sad. It also depressed the people. Of course, the sadness and depression of the imam and the people were not because they attached value to these noises; it was because they wondered why some people have distorted understanding and not grasped the facts.

The people must grasp the difficulties. Today the superpowers of the world regard Islam and the Islamic Republic as a threat. The global arrogance regards the Islamic Republic as a threat. The bullies of the world as well as anti-people faces of the world, with U.S. at their head, look at the Islamic Republic and the Islamic regime as a danger.

It is natural that they will not have a sincere heart and a helping hand for what they regard as a threat. They create difficulties, as they have done so until now. Some of you have served in the government, in the previous cabinet, and some of you have served and cooperated with previous cabinets. Some who have not been in the Cabinet have been serving in other sectors, such as the Majlis. You all know the difficulties the enemies create. Of course we will remove these difficulties; they are not significant against the will of the human beings, a nation and the faithful. They can be removed; these obstacles can be crossed. The people know it.

However, there is no doubt that these reduce the speed of the work and create obstacles for the smoothness of the work. People must understand these issues. They must not show haste and impatience. God willing, the officials of the country, you, will be able to perform the task with maximum power.

Of course the people are right. After the passage of a reasonable amount of time the people are right to ask the officials of each one of the sectors about the results of your work. You must prepare yourselves for such accountability. You must arrange your affairs in such a way as to be able to show the result of your work. If the result is short or if there are discrepancies, then you must be able to cite a reason. The people understand the score; they are intelligent. Observing justice and fairness in all affairs is what all of us must pay attention to. This includes you, the dear brothers in the Cabinet, as well as the officials in charge of the judiciary and all the managers in all the sectors. In our society we must move toward the direction in which illogical advantages—advantages for which there is no reason—are removed and eliminated. The Taghout [reference to the shah] regime was based on the foundation of wrong advantages; that must be eliminated.

We must, God willing, establish the true Islamic justice. The deprived strata, those who are far away from the center, as well as the rural population, the tribespeople and those who have more share of the difficulties must definitely be given priority in the planning for all the sectors—not only in the economic sectors but in all sorts of the services such as educational and so on.

May God bless you with his help. I congratulate myself, the nation, and all the faithful in the world who are interested in this nation on the occasion of the formation of this Cabinet, this efficient package. I also congratulate you on accepting such a dear and grave responsibility. May God support you and give you success so that we all may perform our duties. [end recording]

Yazdi Praises Majlis Approval of Cabinet

LD3008154189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Mr Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary, sent a congratulatory cable to Mr Hashemei-Rafsanjani's proposed Cabinet on the occasion of the announcement of the vote of confidence by the Islamic Consultative Assemmbly. In the cable, he announced that the strong and decisive vote by the Islamic Consultative Assembly was a demonstration of the Majlis' support and loyalty to a great nation, and was carried out to serve Islam and also to safeguard the continuation of the path of the imam, may God raise his status.

The head of the judiciary asked Almighty God for the Cabinet ministers' success in performing their duties and in serving Islam and the Muslims.

Former Prime Minister on Government's Achievements

NC2908205389 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1830 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Speech by Former Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi on the occasion of Government Week; date, place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. [Passage omitted] Naturally, I am not addressing our nation as the prime minister, but as a person who prides himself on having served Islam and the people for the past 8 years. [passage omitted]

More than a decade has passed since our Islamic revolution. The face of our society has changed. Profound changes have taken place in our society. Also, our system has become accepted internationally, which has had an impact on the destiny of all the Muslims of the world. The face of the Muslim nations and of Islam today is not what it was 11 years ago. These changes have occurred thanks to the effort of the people and to the blood shed by our dear martyrs, and naturally these changes were the fruit of all the efforts of the combatant people. [passage omitted]

We had difficult times. We had a war. We had irregularities that stemmed from a great revolution which brought about immense changes—a revolution that was not only at the level of our country, but at a world level. This revolution changed the situation in the region and in the world by upsetting the balance of power and by creating enemies for us. Naturally, these enemies took steps. We had the economic siege. We had pressures. We had the war. We faced diplomatic onslaughts and immense problems in international forums. All these were dealt with by reliance on God and on the people, under the aegis of the values and within the framework of the beliefs which the imam of the ummah presented. And thank God, the system did not fail. [passage omitted]

We know that the people are aware of the limitations and problems that we faced everwhere. A glance will show the difficulty of importing of about 120 million tonnes of goods at a time when we faced shortages of spare parts, tires, and machinery, difficulties in ports, the attack on Bandar-e Khomeyni, the attack on ships in Khur Musa, and problems in foreign exchange. We had an increase in population and war refugees. Some of our provinces were not operating at all. For example, from among the hundreds and thousands of goods, I can refer to the 25 million tonnes of wheat that was imported in order to avoid a feeling of shortage or to prevent famine. This can only show the greatness of what was done in those years. I think our enemies hoped we would fail. Hoever, these tasks were completed.

I am sometimes asked what the most difficult moments were during the past 8 years. Of course, I cannot put my finger on any such moment, precisely because of the support that we had from the people. The executive branch and the government never felt disappointed and never gave up. However, I can say that some moments were more difficult than others. These were when we could not explain certain things to you, the people, so that the enemy could not take advantage of this information. It may be the first time that I reveal to you that about 4 to 5 years ago we faced a grave situation for a few days. We had reached the bare bottom of our grain elevators. Only a couple of others and myself were aware of this situation. Of course, arranging the arrival of wheat to the ports, loading and transporting this to grain elevators, and distributing it to the bakeries were all done with great anxiety. This, in itself, caused psychological problems. When a government has risen from among the people, it considers itself to be deeply committed to the people, and its biggest concern comes when the people are facing difficulties. I remember that in 1360 [1981] we faced a fuel problem in some provinces. There were reports that women, children, young and old, stood in long lines in extremely cold weather to find some fuel to heat their homes. The problem of supplying this immense amount of fuel needed by the country is something we never complained about. However, the psychological problem of knowing that the people were facing difficulties was the largest problem for the government. We had various such examples. But, thank God, all problems were dealt with. [passage omitted]

I think that our greatest achievement was that from the very formation of the government to the very end, we always repeated the same things that we had learned from the imam and from you, the people. We stayed faithful to these values, and we hope that these values will always remain steadfast in our society. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, I would like to state a few things to the new government. Naturally all those people who served in the executive branch throughout the past years will be at the disposal of the government. We hope that the government will be successful in the advancement of the revolution in the decade that is in front of us, and that it will deepen the revolutionary values and expand the borders of the revolution, God willing. I am sure that all the people will support the government in these talks. We, too, will be at the disposal of this government which, under the leadership of the leader of the revolution and the religious leader will, God willing, achieve progress and further expand the revolution.

Velayati Returns From India, Discusses Trip

LD3008114589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, who traveled to India to submit the written message of our country's president and to hold talks with Indian officials, returned to

Tehran at noon today. According to the Central News Unit report, the foreign minister, in an interview with reporters upon his arrival in Tehran, discussed the outcome of this trip and said that during the New Delhi trip he met with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. In this meeting, the reply of a written message which Gandhi had sent several weeks ago to our country's president was submitted to the Indian prime minister.

Bilateral relations, regional bilateral cooperation, and international cooperation were also discussed in the meeting. The date of the future session of the two countries' joint commission was set. Our country's foreign minister also described the future forecast of relations between Iran and India as good and, referring to the latest economic accord between India and Iran, said that one of the major problems between Iran and India was the Kudurmukh project of India. He said this problem was solved in the trip taken by the Indian economic delegation's trip to Iran. Now, the way has been opened for the future of economic bilateral cooperation.

Mr Velayati, pointing to the meeting of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] said that the trip to India is the last round of the activities of the foreign Ministry in relation to the series of endeavours concerning the NAM session. Before these sessions our talks with the NAM countries will continue.

He added that during the length of talks with Indian officials, the latest developments in the implementation of Resolution 598 and the situation in Lebanon were also discussed. At the end of this interview, Mr Velayati pointed to the stances adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the peace negotiations which will take place simultaneously with the NAM sessions in Belgrade. He said that the peace negotiations to implement Resolution 598 should be carried out with the secretary general's supervision, and if the aim of the word direct talks, which the Iraqis are raising, is to sidestep the framework of Resolution 598 and [do away with] the supervision of the secretary general, this matter then is truly a deceptive proposal and aims at providing the Iraqis with the pretext of dodging the implementation of Resolution 598.

Velayati Says Direct Talks With Iraq 'Unlikely'

LD3008171189 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 30, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here today that the Islamic Republic is not likely to engage in direct talks with the Iraqi Government without UN supervision. He denied the likelihood of such talks between the foreign ministers of the two countries during the upcoming Non-Aligned Meeting in Belgrade.

Velayati said the Iraqi Government has brought up the idea solely for invalidating the UN Security Council Resolution 598 and evading its responsibilities in relation with the document.

The Iranian foreign minister returned to Tehran Wednesday [30 August] ending a one-day official visit to New Delhi where he met with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao.

In New Delhi he also handed a message to Gandhi from the Iranian President Hoj-at ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani which was in response to a message to him by the Indian president earlier this month.

The visit to New Delhi by Velayati was the last in a series of preparatory arrangements by Iran in anticipation of the non-aligned meeting in Belgrade September 4-7.

In a brief interview with IRNA on his return trip to Tehran Wednesday morning Velayati said he had informed the Indian prime minister of the position of the Iranian Government in relation with the UN Security Council Resolution 658.

He said his talks with the Indian officials were held in a "warm and friendly atmosphere." Velayati said Iran and India would work "very closely" at the forthcoming Non-Aligned Meeting in Belgrade.

Editorial Views on Cease-Fire Anniversary

NC2608104489 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Aug 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Peace, Not Adventurism Need of the Day"]

[Text] On the first anniversary of the Iran-Iraq cease-fire on August 20, Secretary General of the United Nations, Perez de Cuellar expressed his wishes for the full implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598 which both countries had agreed to. The one-year old truce between the two countries is holding while not even the first article of the resolution has been implemented completely.

Iraq is eager to bring Iran to the negotiation table for direct talks, hoping that this way they might gain certain concessions from Iran in return for withdrawing their forces from Iranian territory. This, of course is contrary to the spirit and the word of Resolution 598 and serves as a major psychological justification for their invasion of Iran and initiating the destructive eight-year war. Even the war has not helped Iraq from seeking to become the gendarme of the region.

Iraq pursued its original goal by invading Iran in September 1980. After almost one decade they are trying to achieve the same goals, this time through negotiations and active diplomacy. They have been successful, to a certain extent, in convincing the superpowers and some of the Arab countries that their interests in the region are endangered by the Islamic Republic, and to secure their interests they need to help Iraq, which seeks to control the waves of the Islamic Revolution. Following this strategy Iraq has been able to acquire large quantities of high-tech weapons from the Soviet Union and France and has received the green light from the West to

undermine the Islamic Revolution. The hidden intentions of Iraq, however, remain the same and it still seeks to become the gendarme of the Persian Gulf. Yet the main obstacles in its way are the geographical conditions of Iraq, its short borders with the Persian Gulf, limiting its maneuverability in the Persian Gulf, and a strong neighbor, Iran, who has all the means at command to block such desires.

Therefore, it is not in the interests of Iraq to continue such insistence which it might soon enough have to reject. Let us remember that the start of the war was exactly another one of the destructive desires of Iraq that resulted in catastrophes and disturbed the stability in the region.

Today when all the conditions are ripe for a long-standing peace in the region it is better to use the opportunity and end all adventurism.

Velayati, UN Officials Discuss Afghanistan

LD2708085789 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 27, IRNA—Deputy U.N. Secretary General Picco, and special U.N. envoy in Afghanistan affairs Benon Sevan met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Saturday night [26 August] and discussed latest developments in Afghanistan.

Velayati reiterated that Iran wanted to see an independent, Muslim and non-aligned government in Afghanistan and believed such a government could enjoy cordial and good relations with all its neighbors.

He described the present situation in Afghanistan as crucial.

Sevan praised the positive stance of the Islamic Republic towards the Afghanistan issue and said the future of the country was promising.

He added that cooperation of all Afghan groups was needed to solve the crisis.

Meanwhile the U.N. envoys met with representatives of the Iran-based 8-party alliance of Afghan mujahideen Saturday night.

The U.N. officials said Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar emphasized the need to find a comprehensive solution to the Afghan issue.

They also called for a peaceful solution to the crisis so that the war-battered country's reconstruction would start soon.

The U.N. officials also stressed that Afghan people must decide the fate of their country.

Spokesman of the Alliance, 'Ali Jan Zahedi said the fate of Afghanistan must be left for the Afghans and called for removal of the Kabul regime.

"We are not willing to enter into negotiations with the Kabul regime," Zahedi said.

He also stressed that a government representing all Afghan groups must be formed in the country.

Najibullah Comments on Bilateral Relations

LD3008055389 Tehran IRNA in English 0510 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Belgrade, August 30, IRNA—Afghanistan will request a resolution from the non-aligned countries calling on Pakistan and the United States to fulfill their obligations according to the Geneva convention on Afghanistan, said Afghanistan President Najibullah.

Najibullah will lead his country's delegation to the Ninth Non-Aligned Summit to be held in Belgrade from 4-7 September.

In an exclusive interview with Yugoslav weekly DANAS on Tuesday, Najibullah said that there should be no obstacles in relations between Afghanistan and Iran, following the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the country.

"There is no reason why relations should not be good," he said. "We expect Iran to play a greater part in seeking a peaceful solution to the Afghan problem, but for the moment Tehran has neither undertaken nor proposed anything more specific."

Najibullah underlined what he called the "realistic approach" of the present leadership in the Islamic Republic towards the Afghan issue.

Commentary Emphasizes Need for Afghan Unity

NC2808091189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's Research Group: "Afghanistan and Political Efforts"]

[Text] The UN secretary general's special adviser on Afghanistan's affairs, who is in Tehran for discussions with the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Afghanistan problem, met with our foreign minister.

In view of the failure of the recent talks between the two superpowers' high-ranking representatives in Stockholm on the Afghanistan problem, observers assess the current efforts of the United Nations as positive, especially since the UN official has discussed the organization's readiness to play a more active role in the Afghanistan problem with the Iranian officials.

UN sources say that the meetings and talks between the UN Secretary General's special adviser and Iranian officials have been described as significant in view of the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward a unity among the various mujahidin groups. These sources believe that with the activation of the United Nations and the close contacts among Afghanistan's neighbors,

there is hope that the the Muslim Afghan people will be able to determine their destiny. Our Foreign Minister Mr Velayati re-emphasized the formation of a comprehensive Islamic and nonaligned government without foreign intervention in Afghanistan.

Also, during his meeting with the representatives of the Eight-Party Afghan Mujahidin Alliance, the UN secretary general's special envoy pointed to the need for a peaceful solution which will ensure the era of reconstruction in Afghanistan. A spokesman of the Eight-Party Afghan Mujahidin Alliance stated that a comprehensive government means that this government will include all the Afghan groups and tribes, and clarified that Afghanistan's destiny should be placed in the hands of the Afghan people and that the Kabul regime should step aside.

Observers believe that the activation of UN diplomacy on the Afghanistan problem coincides with the concern over the existing conflicts and the current situation in Afghanistan. This is at a time when the Afghan Mujahidin have rejected the newest proposal propounded by Najibullah, head of the Kabul regime, and have described this proposal as a copy of the Kabul regime's past proposals. Meanwhile, according to mujahidin sources, this proposal can be considered new only when Najibullah and the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan step down. In his recent proposal, the head of the Kabul regime calls for elections within 6 months after the establishment of a cease-fire in Afghanistan as well as for the formation of an international peace conference with the participation of Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, India, China, and the Soviet Union.

The Kabul regime's new political efforts which, according to an Afghan mujahidin source, is only for propaganda purposes and for preserving power, continue at a time when suspicious acts of fratricide among the ranks of the Afghan mujahidin can be seen. These are trends that pursue the policy of world interventionists and which have prevented the unity of the mujahidin and the Afghan people until now. The massacre of 38 members of the Afghan struggle's highest-ranking commanders in the north of Afghanistan showed that opportunist elements are prepared to resort to any attempt against the mujahidin and the Afghan people to preserve and ensure the domination of the United States and its reactionary minions in the region.

Afghanistan's recent developments, especially domestically, showed that the mujahidin and the Afghan people should—while remaining alert—persistently seize the new conditions that have risen in the region and in the world for their country's future. Undoubtedly, the alertness of the Afghan mujahidin and people can ensure Afghanistan's territorial integrity, self-determination, and national rule; and if these are fulfilled, an independent, Islamic, and nonaligned Afghanistan will emerge.

Daily Urges Involvement in Afghan Resolution

LD2808120489 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 28, IRNA—The English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES Monday editorialized on the Afghan crisis stating that Iran's silence may be detrimental to the Mujahidin cause.

"The sooner there is a reconciliation, the better for the mujahidin cause and the Muslim Afghan people," it said.

The paper said arrest of Sayyed Jamal, a high-ranking commander of Hezb-e Eslami, one of the Peshawar-based seven-party alliance by the rival Jamiyat-e Eslami, also a member of the alliance, "can be disturbing if his trial is conducted in too hasty a manner."

The paper called on Tehran to use its good offices to prevent a quick and unfair trial.

The leader of the Jamiyat-e Eslami Burhanuddin Rabbani has said Jamal has been arrested for his part in Takhar massacare in which more than 30 top Jamiyat-e Eslami commanders were killed.

The two groups have been in a race for supremacy in Takhar and (?Panjsher) regions and the Jamiyat-e Eslami due to the skills of one of its commanders, Shah Mas'ud, has enjoyed the upper hand so far.

"The Takhar incident sadly casts a shadow over the wonderful record of Afghan resistance to the Soviet and Marxist forces."

The TEHRAN TIMES did not doubt that those behind the tragedy must be brought to justice, but said it must be done through an "impartial and independent court."

Editorial Views Afghan Factional Infighting

NC2908224089 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 23 Aug 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Unity First Before Proceeding To Seek Solutions to Afghan Issue"]

[Text] Indications are that there is a sign of mild reconciliation between two rival Afghan mujahidin groups within the Peshawar-based 7-party alliance following the Takhar massacre in which 30 Afghan mujahidin commanders of the Jamiyat-e Eslami were killed. The group alleges that the Hezb-e Eslami, another faction in the alliance, were responsible.

It has been reported that the two groups have agreed that the dispute should be arbitrated by a council formed of the other groups within the same alliance and a thorough inquiry conducted with a view to a possible verdict. The two factions in the dispute are said to have agreed that they will abide by any decisions made by such a council.

The Takhar incident occurred at a crucial juncture, when the political and military status of the mujahidin was still

not in a settled state and had not taken proper shape. The arch enemy of the mujahidin guerillas, the Afghan President Najibullah, was not in any better a situation with mujahidin rockets daily raining on Kabul forcing part of the city to shut down.

As the situation continues in this manner, the Soviet regime who had all along backed President Najibullah but left him to his fate with the withdrawal of Soviet troops, is anxious to see that the Afghan situation is confined within its borders, or at the most is kept on as a regional issue without burgeoning into one reflecting superpower conflicts. The Soviets aim to avoid negotiations which will involve the United States of America.

In order to do this, Moscow looks towards Tehran to use its influence over the mujahidin and with Pakistan and thus rescue Moscow from being embroiled in further complexities over Afghan issues. What they hope Tehran can do is to prevent an emergence of a completely Western-style government in future Afghanistan.

Iran's support for the mujahidin is an irreversible and fundamental part of its foreign policy. And together with this, it would be well to note that Iran will not be suddenly willing to disrupt its new warm relations with the Soviet Union.

Hence the best that Tehran can and hopefully will suggest is that the best solutions to intractable Afghan issues are to conduct a four-sided dialog with Iran, Pakistan, the Soviet Union and the Afghan mujahidin as participants. This can even usefully be held at conference level in order to thrash out all outstanding issues fully and finally.

But the Iranian Foreign Ministry, however, should not be in too much haste to convene such a meeting without seeing to it that there is at least a semblance of unity among the mujahidin who are now talking at cross-purposes and have no unified voice; the Takhar incident has been one of the most serious results of these simmering differences.

To hold any meetings that will have to reckon for the future well being of the entire Afghan people when the Afghan groups representing them are themselves not in agreement will not ensure that the Afghan people will be rightly or justly served. Before any such meetings or full-scale conferences ae held, it will be well to see that the two major Afghan groups—the Iran-based 8-party alliance and the Peshawar-based 7-party alliance –close ranks. The rest hopefully can be plain sailing.

Nation Welcomes Relations With Gulf States

LD3108092789 Tehran IRNA in English 0914 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 31, IRNA—Iran welcomes relations with Persian Gulf countries but the Iranian leadership "is in no way ready" to compromise on the principles of the Islamic Revolution, said a source close to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Thursday.

"It is one of the basic principles of the Islamic Republic of Iran to have friendly relations with neighbors," the TEHRAN TIMES quoted the source in its Thursday's issue.

Foreign ministers of six Arab members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) meeting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, issued a statement on Tuesday calling for good ties with Iran, but said that the Iranian campaign against Saudi Arabia is the main hurdle.

"We have certain major unresolved issues with the Riyadh regime which must be thrashed out before any move in the direction of a smooth flow of bilateral relations," he noted.

"Islam is the basis of our entire system," stressed the source who asked the daily not to be named. He added that "if any country tries to trample on these principles one should not expect that we may have friendly relations with that country."

He cited the example of Britain which supported Salman Rushdie and his blasphemous novel against Islam.

"It all resulted in the break up of relations between Tehran and London," the source stressed.

"The moment we realize that the Saudi regime is on the line of true Islam then the very next moment the Saudi flag can be seen flapping over the horizon of Iran," he assured.

Reyshahri Lauds Judicial Sector Employees

LD3008153589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] At a gathering of judges and employees of the State Prosecutor General's Office, while introducing Messrs Yunesi and Ra'isi, Tehran's public prosecutor and the Islamic revolution of Tehran's prosecutor respectively, State Prosecutor General Reyshahri lauded the services rendered by Messrs Mir-Emad and Eshraqi. [sentence as heard]

In his remarks the state prosecutor general, noting the amendments to the Constitution, recounted the general policies and programs of the Prosecutor General's Office, and emphasizing the principle of more action instead of slogans, reminded them that the realization of social justice and defense of lawful freedoms are the most important duties of the judicial machinery.

Mr Reyshahri also said: We believe the work of judges should neither become tools for political work nor be used for political work. If people see that we have no objective other than the fulfilment of justice and if we show, in practice, that we act on the basis of Islamic justice, they will feel reassured.

Mr Reyshahri, at the end of his remarks, also lauded the efforts of the former state prosecutor general.

Judicial Chief Describes Backlog of Cases

LD3008175589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] This morning, in an all-media conference, Mr Moqtada'i, head of the State Supreme Court [SSR] described the way existing cases in the Supreme Court are receiving attention and also explained the legal amendments which have recently been ratified by the Islamic Consultative Assembly and which will be implemented as a law, as of tomorrow, in all the courts of the land.

According to the Central News Unit Mr Moqtada'i pointed to a backlog of 25,000 files in the SSC which is a waste of human energy, a waste of time for judges, and requires extra resources. He said: To eliminate shortages in the judicial and administrative cadres, and the difficulties that exist in the services and financial affairs departments, the necessary programs have been prepared, and to eliminate legal problems, three cases of amendments to the laws have been envisaged and their drafts have been prepared. These will be presented to the Majlis in the near future for ratification.

The head of the SSC, in connection with the legal reforms which will become legally binding in all the courts of the land from tomorrow, said: this announcement amounts to a communique to all the courts of the country, and on the basis of this amendment, all first category penal courts will comprise only one head or one reserve member, and there is no longer any need for advisors. Also, on the basis of Clause 28 of this amendment, the head or the reserve member of first and second category penal courts, after attending to sentences, studying the case at hand, and obtaining the views of the advisor—in the event of the court having an advisor—will solely embark on dictating the sentence according to Clause 35 of this law, too, the head of the SSC and the State Prosecutor General have been permitted, if they find that the file has passed through all the necessary judicial and legal states, to review a case, if they deem it necessary.

In conclusion Mr Moqtada'i noted: In the event of this legal amendment being implemented, then the passing over of many of the files which do not need to be reviewed in the SSR will be prevented, and the means of attending to them will be cut shorter, and this would please those who need to have their cases seen to.

War-Damaged Bakhtaran Refinery Now Operational

LD3008152389 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Bakhtaran, Aug. 30, IRNA—Reconstruction of five phases of Bakhtaran oil refinery in western Iran has been completed at a cost of 1.2 billion rials (over dlrs. 16 mn).

The refinery which was damaged during the Iraqi imposed war is now operational with twice of its nominal capacity, i.e. 30,000 barrels per day, "which is unprecedent" said head of the refinery here today.

Bakhtaran was one of the Iranian border cities under constant Iraqi missile attacks and bombardments.

The refinery is now producing 2.3 million liters of black oil, 1.3 million litres of kerosene, 700,000 litres of petrol and 60 tons of liquid gas daily, he said.

He was speaking on the occasion of government week (Aug. 30-Sept. 5).

Tabriz Refinery Increasing Oil Production

LD2908184989 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Tabriz, E. Azarbayjan Prov., Aug. 29, IRNA—Oil products at Tabriz refinery have reached 110,000 barrels per day following the completion of reconstruction operations of the units damaged in the Iraqi-imposed war.

A senior refinery official, speaking at a press conference here today said reconstruction operations were carried out soley by Iranian experts and engineers.

Parallel to the reconstruction works a number of new projects had been carried out including special repair works, crude oil transfer, and appropriate use of the residue of refined products, saving over U.S. dlrs. 135 mn in foreign exchange.

Tabriz refinery started operation in 1977 but was put into full operation after the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution. During the eight-year old Iraqi war the refinery was bombed by Iraqi warplanes more than 20 times.

The third phase of the plan for expanding the capacity of the refinery is under implementation which upon being put into operation by the end of the current Iranian year (March 21, 1990) will bring the refinery's capacity to 125,000 barrels per day, the official concluded.

Pakistan

Bhutto: Ziaul Haq Supporters Planning 'Chaos'

BK3008121089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1158 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 30 (AFP)—Premier Benazir Bhutto has said her government is facing political hurdles nine months after she came to power and warned that supporters of the late General Ziaul Haq are planning chaos in Pakistan. "My problems are not problems in constitution. My problems are political," she told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE during an interview here on Tuesday.

"I think it has been very difficult for those who had been associated with General Ziaul Haq to accept the verdict of the people," she said in a reference to the victory of her Pakistan Peoples Party in the November general elections.

"I think such elements have been trying to create a political chaos in the country," the first female premier of a Muslim nation added.

Ms Bhutto, 36, said supporters of Gen Ziaul Haq, who died in a plane crash in August 1988, were responsible for fomenting trouble in the country and were also trying to fan differences between herself and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

"As far as the president is concerned I prefer to keep my matters with him private," she said, while expressing irritation that certain issues had been leaked to the press.

"It is unfortunate" that the question of retiring Admiral Iftikhar Ahmed Sirohey from the sensitive post of chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) had appeared in the press, she said as example.

Mr Ishaq Khan, who took over the presidency after the death of Gen Ziaul Haq, had a few days before the November polls appointed Adm Sirohey to head the armed forces for a three year period.

Ms Bhutto, who also holds the Defence Ministry portfolio, has said the admiral's stint as JCSC expired on August 14 under the Constitution. The post is largely ceremonial in the military hierarchy, where chief of the army staff remains more powerful.

But the alleged rift between the president and premier on the issue got wide publicity in the local press and Mr Ishaq Khan's office on August 6 said the press interpretation was "incorrect and based on misunderstanding."

"It is very clear that Pakistan has a parliamentary system and the president is to act on the advice of the prime minister," she said, referring to the 1973 Constitution that Gen Ziaul Haq amended to give himself more powers after 1977.

She said that under the eighth amendment, which had validated Gen Ziaul Haq's actions under martial law, the president gained powers to appoint the service chiefs and nominate the prime minister until March 1990. "But after 1990 he or she who gets the majority has to be automatically called to form the government," she pointed out.

Apparently unhappy over an alleged delay by Mr Ishaq Khan in inviting her to form the government, she said: "I had 93 seats and the opposition had, I think 45 or 50 " in the National Assembly "nonetheless for two weeks I was not called upon to form the government." Ms Bhutto finally took the reins of power at the beginning of December.

"We have in the hope of national reconciliation chosen to vote for the president because we did not want this office to become one of controversy," she said, adding "it would indeed be unfortunate" if certain individuals succeeded in "making it a controversy."

The prime minister said she believed that "forces who benefitted under the dictatorship" of Gen Ziaul Haq were active against her and that "certain people are taking political actions to undermine the Constitution." But she said that her government had not launched a witch hunt or prosecuted former leaders of the regime of Gen Ziaul Haq, who came to power after ousting her father and former Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1977.

She alleged that Gen Ziaul Haq and his cronies had amassed property and wealth adding, "we have not done that because we wanted national reconciliation in the country. But that does not mean that those who were Ziaul Haq's Brownies (supporters) have appreciated the benevolence of this government.

"In fact they still feel that their goodies have been cut short," she said, citing as example her main rival Nawaz Sharif, who is chief minister of the affluent Punjab Province and head of the Islamic Democratic Alliance—whose supporters are seen as the political heirs of the late general.

She claimed that Pakistan's national railways had lost millions of rupees in transporting steel scrap from ports in the south to a foundry in Punjab owned by the Sharif family's Ittefaq group "because the owner of the foundry was a blue-eyed boy of General Ziaul Haq."

Bhutto on Ties With India, Afghanistan Issue

BK3008161589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has stressed the need for a new and more just international economic order. In an interview with a Yugoslavian paper, she clarified that the current deadlock in the talks between the developing and developed countries is a major obstacle in the way of such an order. She expressed the hope that the deadlock will be removed at the forthcoming special session of the UN General Assembly. The prime minister said the Nonaligned Movement should give attention to solving the problems in the region, which will give strength to its performance in the global affairs. Benazir Bhutto said mutual cooperation among the developing countries is extremely essential to strengthen their stand at their talks with the developed countries.

The prime minister said her government attaches great importance to good neighborly relations and cooperation with India. The good relations between the two countries are not only in their own interest but in the interest of peace and stability in the entire region.

The prime minister described the Soviet troops pullout' from Afghanistan as encouraging and said that this has enhanced the chances of restoration of peace in Afghanistan. She said the present regime in Kabul is a hindrance in the path of durable peace in Afghanistan. The return of Afghan refugees is possible only after the relinquishing of power by the present Kabul regime.

Minister on 'Constructive Talks' With Sharif

BK3008151989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] The federal minister for justice and provincial relations, Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani, met with the Punjab chief minister, Nawaz Sharif, in Lahore today. The meeting lasted more than 2 hours.

Later, the federal minister for provincial relations told a Radio Pakistan representative that they had constructive talks in an extremely cordial atmosphere. He said they exchanged views on understanding between the center and the provinces and on essential matters pertaining to the creation of better relations. He added that they agreed to continue the talks and further contacts. There was also consensus on democratic process and strengthening democratic institutions. The federal minister for provincial relations said we should work together and should make efforts to solve problems to the extent possible. Both the political powers have a desire for the full implementation of democracy, constitution and law in the country. He said he would meet the Baluchistan chief minister and thereafter the date for the provincial coordination committee meeting will be set.

A press release issued by the Punjab government on the talks in Lahore this afternoon says the provincial government is interested in maintaining cordial relations with the Federal Government and is cooperating at every level for the benefit of the nation and the people. The press release says Nawaz Sharif stressed the need for adopting the measures provided in the Constitution to resolve the issues in the relations between the center and the provinces and to convene the common benefit council meeting immediately.

Search for Missing PIA Plane Continues 30 Aug

BK3008114289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Air and ground operations continued to locate the missing PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] Fokker plane on the 5th day today. Five sorties were carried out by PAF [Pakistan Air Force], army aviation, PIA, UN, and Agha Khan Foundation helicopters and aircraft this morning to locate the plane. Three eminent mountaineers have also joined the search operations. Jawans [soldiers] of the Frontier Corps are also locating the plane around Chilas.

Search Resumes 31 Aug

BK3108054889 Islamabad Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that the government is doing its best to locate the missing [Pakistan International Airlines, PIA] plane. She has expressed deep anguish over the failure of the search thus far. Ms Bhutto appealed to the nation to offer special prayers for the passengers and crewmen of the plane after the afternoon prayers today.

Meanwhile, the massive search operation for the missing PIA Fokker plane resumed at 0600 [0100 GMT] this morning. Four aircraft, including one C-130 and one Fokker plane, have gone to the northern areas. The search operation has been extended up to the Chitral region.

Romanian Delegation Arrives on 5-Day Visit

Economic Topics To Be Discussed

BK2808134289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] A 7-member Romanian delegation arrived in Karachi today on a 5-day visit to Pakistan. On arrival, the leader of the delegation, Mr Radu Balan [secretary in the Secretariat of the Romanian Communist Party] told APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN] that they would hold talks with Pakistani authorities on promoting economic cooperation between Pakistan and Romania. The projects likely to be discussed are power plants, oil refinery, and mineral prospects besides proposition of balance of trade.

Increased Cooperation Discussed

BK3008073989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] A meeting of the federal planning bodies of Pakistan and Romania was held in Islamabad. The two groups discussed matters relating to increasing economic cooperation. The Pakistan delegation was led by Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission A.G.M. Kazi, while the Romanian delegation was headed by Chairman of the State Planning Committee Mr Radu Balan.

The Romanian delegation also called on Mr V.A. Jafarey, the prime minister's financial adviser, and exchanged views on improving relations in the fields of economy, trade, industry, and agriculture.

President Meets Delegation Chief

BK3008144589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] The chairman of the Romanian State Planning Committee, Radu Balan, called on President Ghulam

Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. He informed the president that there are ample opportunities for close cooperation between the two countries in various economic fields, such as oil exploration, mining, and agriculture.

The president stressed the need for fixing up realistic targets in economic relations in order to coordinate with the changes in the global economic environment.

Minister on Plan To Improve Law and Order

BK2708163089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] Speaking on the strategic implications of internal security in Pakistan at the Institute of Strategic Studies in Islamabad today, Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan has said the Federal Government is considering a comprehensive program for checking heinous crimes like drug and arms trafficking, dacoitry and abduction. He said the implementation of this comprehensive program will help in improving the law and order situation in the country.

The Federal Government will consider more rights to the provinces to improve socio-economic order in the country. The principle of ending centralization will be implemented in order to get effective administrative control on law and order situation. The interior minister said the Pakistan People's Party government is fully aware of its responsibilities in protecting the life and property of people. The comprehensive program will be formulated with the cooperation of departments concerned and with the cooperation and participation of private organizations so as to improve the security system in the country.

Broadcasting Expansion Program in Baluchistan

BK2408073789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] The Baluchistan chief minister, Nawab Mohamamd Akbar Khan Bugti, laid the foundation stone for 10 kw Loralai radio station in Loralai this morning. This will be the fifth radio station in the province. Speaking on the occasion, he said radio is an effective medium to apprise the people of the latest situation and to provide them with explanations. He said Baluchistan is a large province and therefore the range of radio broadcasts should be expanded. He expressed the hope that the Loralai radio station will fulfill the expectations of the people of the region. The chief minister specially appreciated the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation for spending 21 to 22 percent of its development funds in Baluchistan. He said this amount is quite sizable, which will greatly help in expanding the range of broadcasts in Baluchistan.

Earlier, in his welcome speech, the chairman of the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation discussed the salient features of broadcasting projects in Baluchistan. He said in Khuzdar, a 300 kw transmitter will begin operation by the end of this year at a cost of 770,000,00 rupees. He said in Baluchistan, the sixth radio station will be set up in Judd for which land has been acquired and the primary work is being completed to begin work on this program at the earliest. He said this radio station will be completed by March 1991. Under another project to be implemented expeditiously, a [word indistinct] broadcasting is being set up in Sibi. It will be completed within the next few days. Another project in Baluchistan is that of a 100 kw medium wave transmitter to be installed in Quetta.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa To Convene All-Party Meeting

BK3108150389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa, will soon convene a meeting of leaders of all political parties, who have made proposals to arrive at a consensus to achieve peace and normalcy in the country.

Meanwhile, the strike sponsored by the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] continued for the 4th day today. It affected work in almost all government institutions and banks.

Shoot Out in Colombo; JVP Strike Continues

BK3008094089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0847 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Colombo, Aug 30 (AFP)—Anti-government militants gunned down a policeman, triggering a shoot out here Wednesday [30 August] as a work stoppage called by a Sinhalese rebel group continued for the third straight day, officials said. Activists believed to be from the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) shot dead the policeman at Colombo's crowded commercial area of Grandpass, officials said. They said police returned the attackers' fire, wounding several people.

Security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation in the area, officials said, adding that the attackers may have been wounded in the police shooting.

Banks remained shut and work in government offices continued to be seriously affected Wednesday, officials said. Dockers continued their strike and local press reports said 18 ships, some carrying food cargoes, at the Colombo port were unattended while six more vessels were waiting to enter the harbour. Both local and foreign banks were shut and counters were closed at the main general post office here. Private hospitals too were affected by the strike. Outdoor treatment units of almost all private hospitals shut down Wednesday following a JVP demand, officials said.

Except for the Tamil-populated north-east, where Indian troops are battling Tamil guerrillas, all other areas were

affected by the JVP action to protest what it calls genocide by local security forces and the Indian military presence. However, shops were open and private vehicles were on the road across the country. A few state-run buses were seen in the capital Wednesday.

The work stoppage continued despite government threats that salaries of strikers' will be cut. The government in an appeal over state television Tuesday called for information about subversives, an official term for JVP militants. The rebel group is known to have killed strike breakers in the past.

Security sources here said three suspected JVP men had been killed by troops in two separate incidents in southern Matara District overnight Tuesday.

Dozens of people have died daily in unending political violence across the strife-torn island republic.

The English language ISLAND newspaper wrote an unusually brief two paragraph editorial headlined "From Darkness to Darkness" and left more than a quarter of a page blank, saying it was "symbolic representation of the helplessness and despair which we are sure the whole country is feeling."

"Sri Lanka it appears has truly entered the heart of darkness. Each passing day brings the country closer to the brink. Reason no longer prevails and the voice of sanity no longer carries," THE ISLAND said. It said it was the government's duty to make a "bold and dramatic gesture of reconciliation."

The Sinhalese radical group is leading a violent campaign to overthrow the government and is militantly opposed to a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord under which New Delhi has some 42,000 troops in the island's north-east.

In 1971, the JVP led a bloody insurrection which was put down with the loss of at least 10,000 lives.

11 Dead; 'Subversives' Attack Police

BK3108045789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 11 people died in continuing violence yesterday. In Colombo, one police constable was killed and one injured when subversives attacked a traffic police post.

Strike Continues for 4th Day

BK3108052689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0511 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Colombo, Aug 31 (AFP)—A strike sponsored by anti-government militants continued for the fourth straight day crippling work in almost all government institutions, banks and the Colombo harbour, officials here said.

The Navy had been deployed at the port to unload essential food cargoes and two vessels were handled by them, local press reports said.

The strike which is due to go on till Friday has been called by the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) to protest what it calls genocide by local troops and the presence of Indian troops on the island.

The sharp drop in attendance in both private and government offices compelled authorities to put off the weekly tea auction here, the tea trade said, adding that the auction may be held over the weekend. A few state-run buses were on the road Thursday, marking a slight improvement in transport, residents said. However, no trains were operated.

The JVP-enforced work stoppage continued despite government threats to cut salaries of strikers and appeals for information about subversives, an official term for JVP activists.

Apart from the Tamil-populated north-east, where some 42,000 Indian soldiers are responsible for law and order, all other areas of the country were affected by the JVP action, officials said.

The JVP is leading a violent campaign to overthrow the government and is militantly opposed to the 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign and under which India sent its troops to the island.

In 1971, a JVP-led insurrection was put down by the government with the loss of at least 10,000 lives.

The English language SUN newspaper said the situation in Sri Lanka was far worse than in Cambodia 10 years ago and called on political leaders and militants to seek an end to the continuing bloodletting in the island.

"The world awoke with shocking disbelief to the genocide in the so-called killing fields of Cambodia about a decade ago, some years after the massacres had taken place. But in Sri Lanka the situation today is decidedly worse," the SUN said.

Dozens of people are killed across Sri Lanka daily in what are officially termed political murders. Government figures show an average daily toll of about 30 deaths.

Tamil Party Favors Tripartite Talks, Cease-Fire

BK3008073689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0717 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 30 (AFP)—A leading Sri Lankan Tamil political party has called for a permanent ceasefire and tripartite talks involving Tamils, Colombo and New Delhi to end continuing violence in the island's north-east.

Newspapers here Wednesday also quoted the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) as reiterating in a statement issued Tuesday that Indian troops deployed in the island nation should be withdrawn only in phases.

"As far as we are concerned, a temporary and interim solution for the Tamil people can be found only on those lines," THE HINDU and other newspapers quoted EROS leader Velipullai Balakumar as saying in the statement.

The statement, released in India and Sri Lanka, came six days after the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) accused the EROS of being New Delhi's "quisling" for not demanding an immediate Indian troop withdrawal.

The LTTE, which has rejected a 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka accord which sought to end Tamil separatism, has been fighting a bloody bush war against Indian troops across the north-east since October that year.

Thousands, including more than 1,000 Indian soldiers, have been killed in the fighting which continues despite calls by the Sri Lankan government to halt it.

The EROS, which with 13 MP's is the largest Tamil group in the Sri Lankan Parliament, said tripartite talks involving the Tamil groups and Indian and Sri Lankan Governments should begin immediately. A permanent ceasefire should also be declared in the north-east, it added.

The EROS is among five major former Tamil separatist groups which have accepted the 1987 pact and laid down arms. During the separatist campaign, the EROS and LTTE were considered close allies.

Barring the LTTE, most Tamil groups in Sri Lanka are opposed to a hasty withdrawal by the estimated 42,000 Indian soldiers from the island. Sri Lankan security forces are dominated by the majority Sinhalese community.

Rupee Falls Sharply Against U.S. Dollar

BK3008070189 Hong Kong AFP in English 0453 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Colombo, Aug 30 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan rupee continued its sharp downward trend Wednesday and fell 50 cents to be quoted at 38 to the U.S. dollar, Central Bank of Sri Lanka figures showed. The rupee, which is on a managed float tied to a basket of currencies, was 37.50 to the dollar on Tuesday.

The rupee has been losing value against all major currencies in the past two weeks as the country's economy continued to be battered by unending political violence.